



SKYE THE TARGET IN FUNDS GOAL



Ollly Thomas, Zak Hall, Harry Warren, Sienna McSwiggan, Eashan Patel, Shae McSwiggan, Taylor-James Warren, Syke Warren and Carl Bottley

Report by Clare Butler

A JUNIOR football team scored with a fundraising effort for a Halesowen girl with a rare brain disease.

Netherton Colts raised £1,200 for Skye-Summer Warren, who is currently in and out of hospital undergoing treatment.

The money was raised at three presentation evenings at the club which saw sports memorabilia auctioned off and raffles held.

After hearing about the three-year-old's condition, Colts treasurer Carl Bottley, said he wanted to do something to help. He said: "I saw Skye's fundraising campaign on Facebook and decided to get in touch."

"I met up with her mom and dad and spoke to them and they are such a lovely family I just knew I wanted to do something to help them out."

"At Netherton Colts we have been putting on charity events for around 16 years now, so we had three football presentation nights and all the lads had trophies for taking part."

"Raffles and prizes were also on offer."

"Skye's parents Melanie and Harry both came along and were so grateful for our support. The money is for them to do whatever they can to give Skye the best quality of life."

Skye was diagnosed with Anti-NMDA receptor encephalitis, a rare brain disease. She will need ongoing hospital care for the rest of her life."

The fundraising campaign aims to buy specialised equipment and make any adaptation's that are needed to help her along the way.

Mr Bottley is an avid charity fundraiser and recently raised £1,800 for Russell's Hall Georgina Ward. It came after Mr Bottley lost his father, Edwin, and mother-in-law, Alice Millington, both aged 80, to forms of blood cancer in a matter of weeks in January.

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HOUSING

Homes earmarked as empty former primary school sold

A FORMER Halesowen school that has remained empty for almost 10 years is being sold for housing.

Holt Farm Primary has been subject to vandalism, flytipping and an arson attack in 2014.

The site was on the market for £1.35m and could house about 20 or 30 properties. Halesowen North councillor Karen Shakespeare said a sale had been agreed and legal arrangements going through.

She said: "There could be about 20 to 30 new properties on there. The gully, which has been subject to anti-social behaviour, will also go and be given back to the nearby properties."

"This is incredibly positive news," she added.

EVACUATION

Pupils removed from class after 'malicious' Earls High bomb call

A SCHOOL in Halesowen was evacuated after what police described as a 'false and malicious' bomb scare.

Earls High School received a call at around 10.30am last Friday, prompting pupils to be removed from the main buildings.

Supt Phil Dolby said: "We are investigating after a bomb threat was called through."

"Earls High School received the call at around 10.30am. "At this early stage police believe the report to be false and malicious."

Police said there was nothing to suggest the hoax was linked with several earlier in the year which saw days of disruption at schools around the region.

Pupils returned to lessons in the afternoon.

BALLOT

MP is urged to make law change on homelessness

HALESOWEN and Rowley Regis MP James Morris has been urged to seize an historic opportunity to make a change to the law on homelessness. Mr Morris was among 20 MPs selected in a Private Members' Bill ballot, which gives him the chance to put forward a public bill to parliament on an issue of his choice.

National homelessness charity Crisis has urged him to champion a change in the law to ensure homeless people in England can no longer be turned away by the council to sleep rough.

The proposed bill would see a reformed law requiring all councils in England to take action to prevent people from becoming homeless in the first place. According to figures in February, 457 people were found sleeping rough on any given night in the West Midlands in 2015.

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83-year-old robbed by evil trickster



A CCTV image of the suspect

AN 83-year-old woman was pinned down and robbed in her Dudley home by a man who had offered to help find her cat.

She had been out looking for her missing pet when she met the man at Herald Court, off Priory Street, who offered to help her search.

After looking for the lost pet he went to her home nearby for a drink. But he returned at around 10.30pm and stole bank cards and cash before throwing her to the floor, pinning her down and threatening the victim. She managed

to pull a pendant alarm and he fled. But detectives believe the trickster returned a short time later and banged on the door, claiming to be the police. He walked away when she did not answer.

The man first encountered the woman at around 6pm on May 12, and attacked her at around 10.30pm.

Detectives released a CCTV image of the man suspected of the crime.

Detective Constable Gareth Homer said: "This is a horrific attack on an elderly woman in her own home, by someone who posed as a friend and offered

a helping hand. We are determined to find the man responsible and are eager to hear from anyone who thinks they may know the identity of the suspect."

Police spokesman Hannah Fitzgerald said: "She was thrown to the floor when the man was in her house. The lady was thankfully not injured but she suffered mild bruising and was shaken up."

Contact DC Homer on 101, email contactus@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk or call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

The pet cat was later found.

Arrests of Eastern Europeans up 56pc

ARRESTS of Eastern Europeans have rocketed by 56 per cent in the Black Country while the number of people with UK nationality being detained has dropped.

A total of 1,393 people from countries including Russia, Estonia, Slovakia, Romania, Poland, Czech Republic and Latvia were arrested in 2015. This compared to 894 in 2011.

The number of Latvian people arrested jumped from 75 to 167, Hungarians arrested from 17 to 35 and Poles from 278 to 447, figures show.

Arrests of Romanian went up 223 to 363, with 85 Slovaks, up from 43, and six Estonians – up from two – also arrested.

Meanwhile, the number of British nationals arrested fell from 18,258 to 17,592, a drop of four per cent, in the Black Country – the Dudley, Wolverhampton, Walsall and Sandwell local policing units.

Dialect

Last month, it was revealed West Midlands Police had spent £7.6 million on translators over the past five years. These were needed for more than 150 different languages and dialect.

West Midlands Police Crime Commissioner David Jamieson said: "We live in a globalised world in which criminals have little respect for national borders.

"The increase in arrests of foreign nationals is broadly proportionate with their population increase. Our membership of the EU and use of the European Arrest Warrant, allows us to track and arrest criminals from whichever country they come."

West Midlands Police 'could not comment in the build-up to the EU referendum'.

In January a Polish thief who targeted elderly people in Wolverhampton was jailed for two years, eight months. Gabriel Lipinski, 21, of Willenhall Road, had a previous conviction for a street robbery in Poland.

Also in January, Lithuanian immigrant, Gediminas Babusis, 44, was jailed for six months after being caught with a stolen van less than three months after arriving in the UK. He pleaded guilty to the theft of the vehicle from Sowers Close, Willenhall.

There's none batter than our chippie



Oliver Howard, of Our Plance in Halesowen, winner of the Chip Shop of the Year

A FAMILY-run fish and chip takeaway has secured first 'place' in the search for Dudley's Chip Shop of the Year.

Our Plance, in Dudley Road, Halesowen, serves up traditional fish and chips in its own secret batter mix.

Oliver Howard, aged 24, who took over the chip shop in 2013, is proud of his win.

He said: "My nan and grandad, Maureen and Mike, first opened up a chip shop in Colley Gate, Hale-

sowen, in 1968 before coming to our current place in 1986.

"Then my dad, Paul, took over in 2005. I have been working for around 11 years.

"I took over three years ago after my dad stepped down and have never looked back since.

Recognition

"It has been a big learning curve. The award is a bit of recognition for the work I have done in the last three years, I am really happy.

I would put our success down to hard work, determination and putting faith in the people around me in the business.

"Karen, who has been here for 23 years, has helped me through the transition. Her daughter Chelsie has always been here for 11 years."

The runner up in the competition was Blue Submarine in 7 Middlepark Road, Russells Hall, Dudley, and in third place it was Kings Fish & Chips in 25 Market Street, Kingswinford.

Youngsters can show off wares at Glass Cone

YOUNG traders and buskers will have the chance to showcase their products at the historic Red House Glass Cone next month.

The Teenage Market is a nationwide initiative set up by brothers Joe and Tom Barratt in Stockport as a way of supporting young people and transforming town centres.

Dudley held its first ever Teenage Market in October 2015 with more than 30 stalls and a range of performers taking over Stone Street Square for the day.

The event will now move to the Red House Glass Cone on July 2 and 3.

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, cabinet member for planning and economic development, said: "The Teenage Market was a huge hit when it came to Dudley and I think that the Red House Glass Cone is an ideal venue for this innovative project.

"The cone is already a hub for creative industries and has hosted a range of markets and music events over the years.

"The Teenage Market is a great opportunity for young people to get their businesses off the ground and showcase their creative talents and develop self-confidence and their inter-personal skills."

The event runs from 10am to 4pm on both days.

To apply to be a trader or performer visit www.theteenagemarket.co.uk

Find out more at The Teenage Market on Facebook or follow on Twitter @teenage_market

Choir chosen to sing at festival

YOUNG singers from the Black Country have been chosen to perform at Birmingham Symphony Hall in July.

Stourbridge's Got 2 Sing youth choir will take to the stage as part of the Music for Youth National Festival, from July 5 to 9.

It will involve around 40,000 young musicians from across the country. The choir, comprising 24 members aged from nine to 16, will perform on July 6.

Members will be singing Wings by Birdy, I See The Light from Tangled the movie and Adele's Rolling In The Deep. They will also be participating in several vocal workshops. For tickets and more information see www.thsh.co.uk

The choir will perform at Mary Stevens Hospice on June 12 to mark the Queen's 90th birthday.

Quartet performs for jazz session

THE Patsy Gamble Quartet will be the next band to perform in the latest Jazz at the Bonded Warehouse season in Stourbridge.

The concert is on Friday, June 10, at 7.30pm with tickets on the door at the Canal Street venue costing £8

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Campaign to spot signs of child sex exploitation

PEOPLE across the West Midlands can play their part in helping to tackle child sexual exploitation (CSE) by knowing how to spot the warning signs, a new campaign suggests.

Councils in the region and West Midlands Police have joined forces to raise awareness of CSE.

The campaign website www.seeme-hearme.org.uk has information about CSE and how to spot the warning signs, along with help and advice for young people, parents and carers, professionals and schools.

Councillor Ian Cooper, Dudley Council cabinet member for children's services, said: "With the lighter evenings, more of us, including groups of young people, are out and about later at night, so we want everyone to make themselves aware of the signs of CSE and know how they can report any concerns. Preventing CSE is everyone's responsibility and we all need to increase our awareness of it.

"I would urge people to visit our campaign website to find out more and see what they can do to help protect our children and young people.

"By being vigilant and knowing the warning signs, we can all help to tackle this abuse and keep our children safe."

Anyone concerned about the safety of a young person should call West Midlands Police on 101, speak in confidence to Barnardo's on 0121 3595333 or in an emergency call 999.

Childline have counsellors available at www.childline.org.uk while for more on child sexual exploitation visit www.seeme-hearme.org.uk

Top marks for exam students

NINE students from Halesowen College have achieved a 100 per cent exam success rate on their first year veterinary nurse course.

Nicole Cash, Kendra Doherty, Leah Fletcher, Bethany Golding, Renee Hopwood, Philippa Morgan, Danielle Turner, Rebecca Shaw and Evelina Latakaita have all passed with flying colours.

The exam paper has a mixture of welfare, anatomy and physiology questions.

In 2015 the paper had a national success rate of 57 per cent.

Lecturer Julie Fellows said: "Our students are striving for excellence and working in local practices – congratulations to everyone."

Bus goes through fence into garden

A BUS ended up in a front garden after smashing through a fence in Wordsley. The Diamond bus came to rest in the garden in Balmoral Road at around noon last Wednesday.

No one was hurt.

Medical practice is rated 'outstanding'



Eve Hill Medical Practice in Dudley

A GPs' surgery in Dudley has been rated as 'outstanding' following an inspection.

Eve Hill Medical Practice, on Himley Road, received the rating following an inspection by the Care Quality Commission in March.

Inspectors said staff at the centre treated patients with 'kindness and respect' and had the 'skills, knowledge and experience' to deliver 'effective care and treatment.' Care and leadership were all rated as outstanding, while safety and responses to people's needs were rated as good.

Dr David Shukla, a GP and partner, said: "We are absolutely delighted with the results of this inspection, which are a reflection of the dedication and hard work of our fantastic team.

Positive

"We have always tried to provide the best possible services for our patients and it is wonderful to receive such positive feedback."

Janet Williamson, deputy chief inspector of general practice and dentistry at the CQC's central region,

said: "It is clear that Eve Hill Medical Practice is providing an effective, responsive and well-led service, which is a real asset to the people living in this part of Dudley.

"Staff had the skills, knowledge and experience to deliver effective care and treatment. The practice used innovative and pro-active methods to improve patient outcomes and worked with other local providers to share best practice. We observed a strong patient-centred culture and we saw that staff treated patients with kindness and respect."

Marriage numbers in region drop by 10pc

THE number of people getting married in the Black Country and Staffordshire fell by around 10 per cent in 12 months, latest figures reveal.

A total of 7,296 couples tied the knot in religious or civil ceremonies, data from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) shows.

The number of marriages in 2013, the latest statistics to be published, fell from 8,140 in 2012 – a reduction of 10.3 per cent.

But the region mirrored the national picture which also saw a drop and it's believed people could have been avoiding the number '13' fearing it an unlucky year to get married. Financial reasons with Britain still recovering after the recession may also have had an impact.

Dudley saw the biggest drop in the number of marriages with 22 per cent. Some 893 couples tied the knot in 2013 compared with 1,155 during the previous year.

But Councillor John Martin, cabinet member for law and governance, said numbers getting hitched at register offices and other approved venues had increased since then.

Superstition

"Marriages continue to be popular in Dudley borough and the number of people choosing to tie the knot has grown over the past two years," he said.

"We have a range of venues for people to get married including Priory Hall, Himley Hall and the brand new Thomas Robinson building. There was a drop in numbers in 2013 which may have had something to do with superstition or even financial reasons during economic uncertainty at the time," he added.

In Sandwell there was a 12 per cent drop in the number of ceremonies with 672 in 2013, down from 770. In Wolverhampton, there was a seven per cent fall with 789 couples getting wed in 2012 compared with 733 in 2013 and in Walsall the number fell by around six per cent from 720 to 675. In Staffordshire, the number dropped by 10 per cent from 4,806 to 4,312.

Nationally, there were 240,854 marriages in England and Wales, a drop of 8.6 per cent compared with 2012 and the first fall since 2009.

Elizabeth McLaren, from the ONS, said: "The fall could indicate the continuation of the long-term decline in marriages since 1972 or could be due to couples choosing to postpone their marriage to avoid the number 13 which is perceived as unlucky by many cultures."

Escape for drivers as cars overturn



The vehicle that flipped over in Sedgley. Picture: @bilstonfire



The car on its roof in Bagley Road, Stourbridge. Picture: @stourbridgefire

A MAN was taken to hospital after his car landed on its roof following a crash in Sedgley.

The Renault Megane hit a parked vehicle and flipped over, coming to rest on the pavement in Lime Road in the early hours of Saturday morning. He suffered arm and shoulder injuries. Fire Crews from Bilston and Dudley attended.

A West Midlands Fire Service spokesman said: "The occupier managed to self-extricate himself. He was out of the car before we arrived.

"The police requested that the car was left in situ."

Brigg Ford of West Midlands Police said: "We were called by ambulance crews to an incident where a car had rolled over at around 4.20am.

"The vehicle was on its roof. The driver suffered a nasty gash to his arm, but it wasn't a life-threatening or life-changing injury. He was taken to hospital."

Meanwhile, a young driver was lucky to escape with minor injuries after flipping his car on a winding road in Stourbridge on Friday night.

The 20-year-old hurt his shoulder in the incident in Bagley Road just after 9pm. No other vehicles were involved.

Mr Ford said: "The car was blocking the road. But the road was quickly closed off. The road was closed but reopened after a short time. The 20-year-old male driver suffered an injured shoulder."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Russells Hall trust is one of the best

THE NHS trust that runs Russells Hall Hospital has been named as one of the best in the UK.

The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust picked up a CHKS Top Hospital Award 2016 at the ceremony in London. The trust was shortlisted in the categories of 'Excellence in Delivering 24-7 Emergency Care Award' and 'Data Quality Award' at the annual event. Paul Bytheway, chief operating officer, said: "We are thrilled to be recognised as one of the best performing trusts in the UK and this award is a testament to our dedicated staff."

Museum lands top industry award

THE Black Country Living Museum has won an award at an industry ceremony.

The venue, in Tipton Road, Dudley won the trading and enterprise award at the Museums and Heritage Awards for Excellence.

Andrew Lovett, the museum's director and chief executive, said: "We are absolutely delighted to win such a prestigious award.

"Our events programme and filming location hire have been examples of how it is possible to use our unique space in positive and creative ways."

£5,500 raised at dragon boat race

SHOP staff raised more than £5,000 for Dudley-based White House Cancer Support (WHCS) at this year's dragon boat race at Himley Hall.

A team from Midcounties Co-operative stores in Tipton, Sedgley, Tivdale and Kingswinford competed in various heats of 350 yards across the Great Pool. Their efforts generated £5,500.

Charity manager Caroline Webb said: "It is an amazing amount and we are absolutely over the moon."

Nurse presented with a national accolade

A DUDLEY nurse who helps patients with learning disabilities has won a top national award.

Jacqui Howells, learning disabilities liaison nurse for The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, was handed the good nurse accolade at the Great British Care Awards.

"Receiving a national award means so much to me but the fact that my patients nominated me and think that I am a good nurse makes it even more special," she said.

Birthday tea and movie

THE movie The Queen starring Helen Mirren is being shown as part of a Royal celebration in Halesowen.

Halesowen Library at the Cornbow Centre is hosting an afternoon tea to mark the monarch's 90th birthday on Wednesday, June 8, at 2pm.

Tickets are £7 on 01384 812980.



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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



AS another Chelsea Flower Show slips into history, I reflect once again on the endless joys of gardening and how profoundly grateful I am that people find time to do it. Other people.

WHEN will they ever learn? In the 2001 Census, nearly 400,000 Brits declared their religion as "Jedi knight." In this year's competition to find a name for the UK's new research vessel, more than 100,000 voted for "Boaty McBoatface." You might imagine that by now the authorities would have realised you can no longer ask the Great British Public a sensible question and get a sensible answer. We are now told that the 2021 Census may include a question on our sexuality and gender. Let me be the first to out myself as Neutral McNewtface.

AS is so often the case, life imitates Brian. There is a scene in Monty Python's Life of Brian when a bunch of soothsayers are vying for the attention of passers-by with their prophecies. One unusually precise soothsayer, speaking in a strong Ulster accent, declares that: "For the demon shall bear a nine-bladed sword. Nine-bladed! Not two or five or seven, but nine." I am reminded of him as the Remain lobby assure us with great precision that if we leave the EU the average cost of a family's shopping will rise



by exactly £220 while GDP will drop by precisely 3.6 per cent and 820,000 jobs – not 800,000 or 850,000 – will be lost. Coming soon: the Brexit plague of 1,999,997 locusts.

THE university of East Anglia has advised students not to throw their mortar boards into the air at their graduation ceremonies but to choose the "safer" option of miming the throw and having images of mortar boards digitally added to the photos. How many students have been slain by falling mortar boards is not disclosed. If the traditional graduate headgear is so dangerous, perhaps students should throw something else into the air, something light that all students possess and will cause no injury. Unpaid electricity bills, overdraft refusals, county-court judgments and so on.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

More than 100 parents in court over truancy

MORE than 100 parents in Dudley borough have been taken to court due to child truancy in the past year.

A Freedom of Information request revealed that 116 parents were taken to court by the authority from May last year until last month.

It comes after the Government introduced tougher measures to address truancy, including deducting the cost of unpaid penalty notices from Child Benefit.

By Clare Butler

But Stourbridge's Councillor Nicolas Barlow said more work needed to be done to address the causes behind the truancy.

He said: "Any number is not good, unless there is a legitimate reason for a child to be out of class and they have had permission to have authorised absence. But 116 is high and very worrying – it needs to be addressed."

Reasons

"Ultimately, it is a drain on resources with court costs coming into play.

"I think the main thing is that we now need to look at reasons behind this and the underlying factors why children don't want to go to school – whether it be due to the lessons structure or things like bullying.

"If we could get the outline causes and then meet with pupils and guardians then maybe we could get a better understanding."

By law all children of compulsory school age – between five and 16 – must

receive a suitable full-time education. The law states if 'the parent knows that his/her child is failing to attend regularly at school without reasonable justification to cause him to do so, he/she is guilty of an offence'.

Upon conviction a fine up to £2,500 per parent per child can be issued – or up to three months in prison.

The figures come after it was revealed in March that the number of children expelled from Dudley secondary schools has risen by 75 per cent over a three-year period.

Nearly half of the 89 students excluded in 2014/15 were because of persistent disruptive behaviour.

Councillor Ian Cooper, cabinet member for children's services, said: "Prosecuting parents is always a last resort and follows a number of measures we have in place to remind parents of the importance of their children attending school."

Garages targeted by thieves



Robert Bett's garage in Netherton was ransacked

THIEVES stole thousands of pounds worth of equipment after ransacking two commercial garages in Netherton and using a forklift truck to move machinery.

Tools and machinery worth up to £5,000 were taken from Betts Motor Services after thieves broke in through the roof.

In a separate incident on the same night, the forklift was used to steal £1,000 worth of equipment from JCG Auto's garage in Cradley Heath, causing about £15,000 worth of damage.

Police do not believe the burglaries were linked.

Robert Bett, owner of Betts Motor Service, said diagnostics machinery and impact guns were among the equipment stolen from his firm during the raid on May 17.

He said: "I reckon they stole around £3,000 to £5,000 worth of equipment."

His alarm had activated in the early hours but the thieves had already fled by the time he reached the garage.

The burglary at JCG Autos garage happened around 4am.

West Midlands Police said officers were investigating.

Open day at hospital to attract volunteers

PEOPLE interested in volunteering at hospitals in Dudley are invited to an open day next week.

There are already more than 400 helpers on the books at Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust.

But staff are keen to attract more people to join the team, which works at Russells Hall and Guest hospitals in Dudley and the Corbett in Stourbridge.

The volunteer open day will be hosted on Monday (June 6) by chief executive Paula Clark and chief nurse Dawn Wardell at 10am in the Lecture Theatre at Russells Hall Hospital.

Visitors will be able to talk to some of the hospital trust's existing volunteers and hear from staff about the contributions made by the team.

Volunteers help in a variety of ways across the three sites. They may also be called upon for ferrying patient files around departments and keeping medical supplies well-stocked.

Ms Clark said: "Anyone over the age of 16 who would like to make a difference in Dudley can apply to become a volunteer at the trust, whether they can spare a few hours a week around existing commitments or want to give their time more regularly, we'd love to hear from them."

Book a place by calling 01384 456111 extension 1064 or emailing communications@dgh.nhs.uk

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Tickets quota puts pressure on traffic wardens – claim

TRAFFIC wardens across Dudley are being put under pressure to fine more drivers because of an 'unfair' evaluation system, it has been claimed.

Wardens say they feel under pressure to catch out more drivers as they are compared on their performances.

One warden said they had been told they must each issue an average of 4.7 tickets a day to meet budget projections. However, Dudley Council said it did not set such targets.

Banning order helps put a stop to antics

A COUNCILLOR says the introduction of a banning order has led to improvements at a car park plagued by anti-social behaviour.

Windows were smashed and walls daubed with graffiti at the Ryemarket shopping centre car park in Stourbridge.

The order was introduced in January and has since stopped under 18s from entering the car park unless driving or accompanied by a responsible adult.

Councillor Nicolas Barlow said when the Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) was introduced he hoped it could bring an end to the anti-social behaviour misery.

He said: "Since the introduction of the PSPO Everything so far seems to be so good."

"There may always be a few issues that need to be addressed but from speaking with people it looks like it is working well – which is a really positive thing for the town."

Pie charts and other data showing how many tickets have been given out by each worker have been put up on notice boards and it is felt the system is heaping pressure on those giving out the fewest tickets.

One warden, who did not want to be named, said: "We have been told we have got to achieve 4.7 tickets a day to pay our wages."

"When I started I was told my job was to keep the streets safe and clear but now we're being told if we're not issuing tickets we're not doing our jobs properly."

"Then they start putting pie charts up and saying 'so and so did more, you have got to do better'."

Spotlight

He added: "It has taken away our discretion."

Dudley Council said the evaluation system was in place to make sure standards remained high.

Councillor Hilary Bills, cabinet member for environmental services, said: "We are not allowed to set ticket targets for our parking enforcement staff, but like all council employees, we have an ongoing evaluation system in place for our staff."

"This helps us to make sure they are continuing to provide a good service to the public in ensuring roads and restricted areas are free from obstructing vehicles to help traffic flow."

£100,000 raked in by parking fines



Clive Sowerby, of Sowerby shoe shop, Lower High Street, Stourbridge

DUDLEY Council raked in almost £100,000 from parking fines in a 12-month period.

Figures from a Freedom Of Information request show the authority made nearly £100,000 from handing out fines in the borough in the 2014/15 financial year. This was an increase by more than a third from 2013/14, when £59,718 was collected.

Wolverhampton Street in Dudley saw the highest amount of fines issued in 2014/15, with 820 parking tickets earning the council £25,508.32. Dudley High Street came second, with 561 fines totalling £18,541, and Stourbridge High Street was third with 525 fines totalling £16,666.

Other hot spots included Stone Street in Dudley with 534 fines raking in £16,525 and Pensnett High Street with 439 fines boosting council coffers by £15,562. Three streets remained in the top five worst affected areas from 2013/14 to 2014/15. In 2013/14 Stourbridge High Street had come top with 522 fines totalling £17,613.

The authority revealed the highest earning pay and display car park in 2014/15 saw an income of £222,074.59 in 2014/15, down more than 50k from £274,219.08 in 2013/14. But the council would not reveal the location.

Clive Sowerby, of Sowerby shoe shop in Stourbridge, said one hour stays were 'ludicrous'.

Environment boss Councillor Hilary Bills said: "Parking restrictions are there to keep the borough's roads moving and to make sure people are safe."

Coroner rules crush death was accident

A CORONER has ruled the death of a man who was crushed by a car when it collapsed on him at a storage yard in Cradley was an accident.

Emergency services were called to the industrial estate in James Scott Road at 5pm on May 19, but were unable to save 64-year-old father Michael Ashton, of The Parade, Dudley.

Black Country Coroners Court heard how Mr Ashton had been working on his silver Vauxhall Omega in a storage yard when his trolley jack had collapsed and he was crushed under the vehicle.

He had been seen by a member of staff from neighbouring company MEK Commercial repairing the car just after 1pm.

Board

A statement from Richard Williams, read out by the coroner, said: "I could see Mick working under his car at around 1.10pm. At around 16.45pm I had gone back to fetch a HGV but he was underneath and I could see his legs were not moving."

"I ran up to him and called his name but could see that the vehicle was then on top of him."

"I called for help and we raised the jack and pulled him out onto the board he had been working on but could see he had already passed away."

"The cause of death given was crushing to the chest due to being trapped under the car."

Senior coroner Zafar Siddique said: "I conclude that this was an accidental death from crushing injury."

G&S theme for choir

HALESOWEN Choral Society will be performing a concert that celebrates The Magic of Gilbert & Sullivan on July 2.

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FIVE MINUTES FROM MERRY HILL

IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews



Warden's moan just ticket for hypocrisy

YOU know that parking enforcement is going too far when even the traffic wardens are complaining about it.

After years of platitudes about “keeping the traffic moving” and “keeping the public safe”, a disgruntled warden in Dudley has revealed they are being told to issue an average of 4.7 tickets each a day to meet budget targets.

I would love to say that comes as a surprise, but really it is right up there with the revelation that Big Daddy used to like his grub.

It has long been my belief that the vast majority of parking tickets are nothing to do with either road safety or the free flow of traffic.

They are simply councils fining people for minor breaches of rules that they dreamt up themselves.

And ticketing targets for traffic wardens are the price we pay for the dreadful decision to take parking enforcement away from the police and to hand it over to local authorities.

Well here's an idea. Let's get rid of all civil parking wardens, the whole lot of them, and use the money to take on a few extra police. It might only be a handful of extra officers, but I'm sure they will come in handy.

And in return? Well, leave it to the police to deal with the small number of instances where there is a real issue of public safety or obstruction.

That will, of course, mean there is nobody to enforce the majority of parking offences, the ones that are nothing to do with public safety but simply people parking in places the council does not approve of. Never mind, I'm sure life will go on.

■ ■ ■

FANTASTIC story about burglary victim Yannick Read, who responded to the theft of his £1,000 racing bike by coming up with what surely must be the ultimate anti-theft device.

His gadget not only features a 150-decibel siren, but also a shotgun-style cartridge packed with gunpowder. This means the bike really does go up in smoke if some light-fingered little low-life tries to half-inch it. What's not to like?

What I don't understand, though, is why anyone would spend £1,000 on a bike. Maybe I'm sounding like the dad off the Yellow Pages advert.

■ ■ ■

DR HENRY Heimlich, who invented the lifesaving Heimlich manoeuvre in 1974, used his own technique for the first time last week.

The 96-year-old performed the procedure on a fellow resident of a care home in Cincinnati.

In the US alone, the manoeuvre is credited with saving 100,000 lives. Oh, and David Walliams used it when Simon Cowell choked on a mint. Swings and roundabouts, I guess.



Under cover: the remains of the Dornier bomber



Conservation centre manager Daren Priday looks inside the plane



Taking shape – a propeller from the Dornier Do 17

New chapter written for the ‘Flying Pencil’

SOPHIE MADDEN reports on the restoration of the last surviving Second World War 2 German bomber of its type

AT first glance it looks like an unremarkable warehouse, with lighting strips shining down from the roof to show racks of shelving and cargo covered by dark green tarpaulin.

But underneath the covers lies a piece of Second World War military history.

The remains of the last Dornier Do 17 bomber lie sheltered from the elements as part of a project to conserve them for future generations.

The Germans built 1,500 of the bombers. The one now sitting in the Conservation Centre at RAF Museum Cosford was raised from the bottom of the Strait of Dover in the English Channel almost three years ago.

The Dornier and its many small components were sprayed with a citric acid solution for months in order to clear them of debris from their time under the water. There still remains more work to be done before the plane can go on permanent display.

Materials

On completion, the plane's permanent display will be the first time it has been seen since November, where it was the centre-piece of the museum's Conservation Centre Open Day.

Darren Priday, RAF Museum conservation centre manager, said they were waiting on confirmation from project adviser, Professor Mary Ryan from the Imperial College London, on how best to treat the metal before the aircraft goes on display to the public.

He said: "It is now in the hands of the museum's design and interpretation team to decide how the aircraft should be displayed and what supporting materials should be included in order to tell the story."

The Dornier's twin-engine, twin-fin configuration, together with the narrow fuselage and shoulder-mounted engines, gave the aircraft a distinctive silhouette and earned it the nick-



Workers at RAF Cosford Museum reapplying the cover to protect the aircraft

name 'The Flying Pencil'. More than 400 were employed by the Luftwaffe during the Battle of Britain in the Second World War.

At the time of the Dornier's recovery, it was unclear just how much of the aircraft could be saved following more than 70 years on the seabed. The process so far has seen the aircraft systematically sprayed – inside purpose-built hydration tunnels – with a low concentration citric acid-based solution.

Confident that the citric acid solution has done its job, the fuselage was removed from the tunnels in early September 2014 and has undergone an intense wash down, before being moved into the Conservation Centre. Techni-

cians then began working on the Dornier full time, cleaning and scraping and removing deposits by hand.

The gradual process of removing the thick layer of marine deposits revealed several bullet holes and shrapnel damage on the airframe, plus small areas of the original paint finish.

The plane was shot down by the RAF on August 26 1940. Part of a large enemy formation, it was intercepted at noon as it tried to attack airfields in Essex.

This particular aircraft was forced to make an emergency landing on Goodwin Sands at low tide after an attack by Defiant fighters of No 264 Sqn that left both engines stopped and

the crew wounded. Now deposits have been removed, conservationists have found bullet holes and shrapnel damage.

While working on some of the smaller components, volunteers also discovered push rods still coated in their original oil and when a pipe was removed from a fuel injection unit, a small amount of fuel was still present.

While smaller components are still receiving conservation treatment, the Dornier's forward fuselage, tail boom and wing have been temporarily covered by tarpaulins.

Under the coverings with the plane's parts is a dehumidifier which controls the environment and reduces humidity.

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Fundraisers fighting to help heart transplant pal



Front, event organiser Jason Brewster and Alan Bladen with fellow fundraisers at Tipton Sports & Social Club

A MAN in need of a heart transplant has received a financial boost from his boxing pal and other friends.

Alan Bladen, aged 66, died three times in hospital after a heart attack, but the retired factory worker came out punching, and is now on the transplant list.

In the meantime, his pal Jason Brewster, a former Midlands boxing champion, has rallied to help raise funds to help Mr Bladen out. A recent fundraiser pulled in £3,800 to go

towards his care. Mr Brewster said: "Half his heart is dead, he's got a mechanical device in there keeping him alive. He's on the transplant waiting list."

"We held a fun day and an auction in Tipton, and I called in a few favours from friends in the boxing fraternity. We had lots of gifts as well. It was a really good day."

Mr Bladen, who also worked as a driver before he retired, is set to tie the knot with his fiancée Julie Edmonds in July.

Mr Brewster added: "He gets married on July 8, it's a bit of a rushed

wedding. We're going up to Blackpool for his stag.

"His fiancée Julie has been his rock. I'm just really happy he's still here and want to do everything I can to help."

Later this year, Mr Brewster will get into the ring for charity with former world heavyweight champion Tim Witherpoon, who once knocked out Frank Bruno at Wembley.

He said: "He's a former world champion, I'm probably mad. But it should be a really good night."

Tickets will be available in July for the October 21 fight, which will take place at Brierley Hill Civic Centre.

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The Henry Meadows factory in Park Lane, Wolverhampton



A Meadows trade stand at a show at Olympia



The gate to the Meadows factory off Park Lane



A Meadows-powered Merryweather fire engine

The driving force behind leading engine company

IN April 1919, while meeting at the Little Swan Hotel, Horseley Fields, a group of Wolverhampton businessmen resolved to create a new company to build gearboxes for the more powerful vehicles which were becoming common.

Among the group was Henry Meadows who had worked for Clyno Cars and before that Harper Bean of Tipton, makers of the Bean car, and he was to become managing director of the new concern, which was given his name.

Customer

The new factory for Henry Meadows Ltd was built in Park Lane, next to Guy Motors, and the first product was a 3-speed gearbox for a Vulcan lorry, delivered in May 1920.

Vulcan Engineering was the first main customer, but others followed, such as the Coventry Motor Car Co. and Coventry Simplex. It soon became clear that most customers pre-

MEMORY LANE

By Alec Brew

ferred to buy in engines and gearboxes as one unit, so Meadows began making petrol, then diesel engines for cars, commercial vehicles and boats. TE Lawrence, Lawrence of Arabia, once worked for the company, developing an engine for an RAF Air-Sea rescue launch.

Guy Motors next door became an important customer, and during the Second World War Meadows engines were much in demand for armoured cars and tanks, and the factory was greatly expanded. Towards the end they began making Meteor tank engines, a version of the famous Rolls-Royce Merlin aero-engine.

After the war diesel engines were the main products, but for a while the company made the little Frisky micro-car. In 1965 the company followed Guy Motors into Jaguar's ownership, and then the British Motor Corporation, who decided to close the company in 1968.



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A Scammell tanker, powered by Meadows

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Call to re-open full length of railway track

"LIGHT rail link hopes linking Sandwell and Dudley are dashed".

This decision was made last year, perhaps due to my insistence that Dudley people did not need to be shuttled on the very light rail tram on our own main line railway to Sandwell's, only 2km down the track.

Far better to re-open the full length of 20km from Stourbridge to Walsall with links to the north and south of the country on the national rail network.

This valuable and successful passenger line for 100 years will be destroyed for ever when Midland Metro

trams are introduced on only two short lengths either side of Dudley rail tunnel, beneath Castle Hill. The wasted main line railway will have, from Stourbridge, good trains for 5.5km, then 4km of light rail trams, 2km of very light rail shuttle trams, 3km of light rail trams once more and, then, a gap of 5.5km to Walsall!

In other words, on our 100-year-old line of successful fast and semi-fast trains and, after 50 years of being mothballed for the return of these trains, the councillors and officers are now to put a mixture of light rail and

very light rail trams over a length of only 9km. Then 11km will be wasted with no passenger commuter trains.

I urge readers to write to the Black Country Director of Transport, Stuart Everton, asking for the full length of 20km to be used once more for commuter trains. His address is Black Country Director of Transport, 1st Floor Civic Centre, St Peter's Square, Wolverhampton, WV1 1SH, or e-mail: Stuart.Everton@wolverhampton.gov.uk

T WELER
Halesowen

Our nation has been stitched up

THE answer to why people have not yet mind up their mind to leave the EU is, to me, simple - millions of jobs.

The majority of our manufacturing industries are now owned by foreign multi-national companies, many with plants across Europe, and often with space capacity. If we voted to leave, the governments of Spain, Italy, and France for example, where employment is very high, would put pressure on the owners of these companies to move production to the continent, where they desperately need the jobs. Economically we would be defenceless.

Since we first became involved with the EU, four Prime Ministers have signed treaties taking us further down the road to full integration.

As a nation, we have been well and truly stitched up as this is not what we voted for under the first referendum organised by Edward Heath.

P SIMPSON
Dudley

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Hard facts needed not just supposition

HAVING read the Government booklet on why it believes remaining in the EU is the best decision, I cannot find one single statement that is backed up by hard facts. All this booklet contains is seven pages of photographs which have no relevance, supposition, guesswork and misinformation. What a waste of taxpayers' money.

As regards Mark Carney's comments on his prediction of possible economic collapse if we leave the EU, considering most, if not all, his economic predictions and forecasts since becoming Governor of the Bank of England have proved to be wrong why should anyone take any notice of what he says? Jeremy Corbyn seems to change his mind every month or so.

The EU consists of 28 different countries all having their own government, laws, culture, religion and language. Not only that but most pay vast sums of money to prop up a bureaucratic nightmare which imposes laws and regulations on those countries whose people have no say in what the EU MPs vote for.

What people want is information from both sides which can be backed up by facts not ifs, buts or maybes.

H SMITH
Halesowen

Get rid of Tories to save NHS

THE Brexit campaign is trying to scare us into thinking that leaving the EU is the only way to save the NHS, claiming that so many hospitals could be built and everything would suddenly be wonderful.

What rubbish! The cost of running the NHS involves far more than building hospitals. It requires a commitment beyond that which Brexit supporters envisage.

The NHS has reaped enormous benefits from being in the EU in terms of shared research and technology.

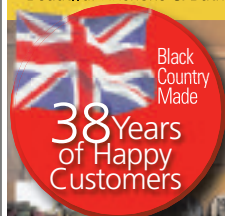
We need to face the fact that the only way we can be certain of funding the NHS for future generations is by increasing taxes.

This Tory government flatly refuses to consider increasing income tax. Therefore, the only way to save the NHS is by getting rid of this Tory government, not by leaving the EU.

M CLIFF
Wall Heath

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Ban comes into force on former legal highs

LETHAL legal highs are no longer available over the counter as a new law that could see offenders jailed for up to seven years came into force last week.

A blanket ban on the substances has been brought in amid fears they have caused deaths and fuel anti-social behaviour.

The Psychoactive Substances Act forbids the 'production, supply and importation or exportation for human consumption of the drugs'.

Shelves across the Black Country have been cleared of the highs, which were linked to the deaths of 144 people in the UK in 2014 alone.

Borough bosses in Dudley welcomed said they will have a 'zero-tolerance' policy on the drugs. But concerns have been raised that dealers could turn to illicit websites to continue selling.

Harmful

Councillor Rachel Harris, Dudley Council cabinet member for health, said: "We've always been vigilant about the safety of the public and will continue to be after the change in the law.

"A lot of people are aware that some of these substances can be very harmful. We will continue working in

co-operation with other partners and have a zero tolerance to such items.

"As a council we need to work with all our communities to make sure that these practices which harm people are kept at bay. We appreciate any information from the public if they are suspicious of these substances being sold or want to check if something is legal."

Commander Simon Bray, National Police Chiefs Council lead on New Psychoactive Substances, said those determined to get hold of the drugs might turn to the 'dark web'.

But he said the law will mean Britons can no longer stroll into a 'head-shop' and buy mind altering drugs.

Public to get a say on museum's next phase

BOSSES are seeking public opinion on an £18 million masterplan for the future of the Black Country Living Museum after revealing more details about its future.

The museum in Tipton Road, Dudley, attracts around 300,000 visitors a year but chiefs are hoping to increase the amount to half a million as part of a 10-year forward plan.

The plans will see 60 new jobs created.

Bosses are currently seeking funding for the development, which could include moving the site's entrance from Tipton Road to Castle Hill.

Chief executive Andrew Lovett said the change would link the venue to Castle Hill, providing visitors with one shared arrival point to Dudley's four attractions – Dudley Zoo, Dudley Archives, Dudley Canal Trips and the museum.

Retail

Further proposals include a new visitor centre, exhibition space to display more of the museum's collection, conference, retail and café facilities.

A bustling 1940s to 1960s town featuring a library, more shops and restaurants, including a corner pub, houses and a bowling green, are also planned. Visitors are being urged to have their say using an online survey.

Mr Lovett said: "There's a great opportunity to fulfil the museum's potential. We think this is an opportunity to complement all the investment that's gone into the Castle Hill area."

The masterplan would see the museum's tramway extended to connect the developments, looping through the site in a figure-of-eight. The Rolfe Street entrance would be transformed into a learning centre for school visits.



The Red by Night event, at Black Country Living Museum

Fancy dress picnic at zoo

A FANCY dress picnic party for under-fives takes place at Dudley Zoo at the end of this month.

Taking place in the castle courtyard on June 29 and 30, entertainment will include puppet shows, magic acts, a bouncy castle, balloon modelling, nursery rhymes and fairytales and face painting.

There will also be a chance to meet the zoo's tiger mascot, Jambi, as well as getting up close to furry friends during animal encounters, feeds and

talks. Youngsters will also be able to show-off their fancy dress outfits in a parade around the courtyard with medals available for all participants.

The zoo's marketing manager Andrea Hales said: "Our under-fives days are always great fun, so why not make a picnic and come and join us for a fun-filled day?"

Tickets are available to book in advance at £6 for children aged two to five and £6 per adult. Under-twos are free.

New fashion line worth the weight

A DUDLEY mother-of-two who lost eight stone after life-threatening health concerns has now set up her own clothing company.

Kate Turner, aged 34, from Gornal, managed to slim down to size 12 from a size 24.

At her heaviest Mrs Turner weighed 19 stone but after a lifestyle and diet change, along with having a gastric band fitted, she now weighs just over 11 stone.

The former lecturer has decided to turn fashionista by launching her new clothing company called 'Love The Size You're In'.

"At age 25 I weighed 19 stone, just after having my first son Harry," Mrs Turner said.

Problems

"I had had a few health problems due to being overweight. My gall-bladder was removed, my spleen was enlarged, knee operations due to excessive wear, backache, general fatigue and I was borderline diabetic.

"I knew I had to do something as my life was being threatened by the amount of weight I was carrying," she added. "My partner Kieran wanted us to get married but at the size I was I



Gornal mum Kate before losing weight didn't want to hide my wedding photographs away."

In August 2010, a year before having her second son, Ronnie, Mrs Turner decided to pay to have a gastric band fitted, which saw her lose four stone by January 2011. When she and Kieran were married in July 2013, she weighed ten-and-a-half stone.



Slimline Kate on her wedding day

"I always struggled to get nice clothes to fit, because I was young and wanted to wear what my friends did," said Mrs Turner.

"This frustration always stayed with me."

For more information on Mrs Turner's range, visit the www.lovethesizeyourin.com website.

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195/55 16	£33.00	225/45 18	£39.00	Uniroyal RS3	
195/50 15	£32.00	225/40 18	£38.00		
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Street driven mad as bus chaos is caught on film

BUS CHAOS in a quiet Black Country street has been caught on camera by a fed-up resident.

Bus drivers have been filmed reversing on to drives, narrowly avoiding cars and using the entire pavement to manoeuvre out of trouble in Cupfields Avenue, Tipton.

Jane Harris was waiting for two single-deck buses to clear after they got stuck on a tight corner in her street and decided to film the mayhem that ensued. Three more buses join the congestion during the five-minute footage posted on YouTube on May 23.

Over the last three years, Ms Harris, aged 43, said a wall in front of her house had also been knocked down by buses and other vehicles passing by. Now she wants the issue resolved before it is rebuilt.

Disruption

A transport supervisor at Aston Manor Brewery, she said: "About ten years ago we used to just have National Express on there and they used to run a service every 30 minutes and you didn't get the disruption."

"But now it's every 10 minutes and we have got two separate companies on there now. It has been ongoing with National Express, the highways and the councillors for the last three years, probably longer."

Cupfields Avenue is currently used by National Express and Diamond Bus services on the 42 and 43 routes.

She said it was clear too many buses use that route. "The problem I have got is the bus mounting the kerb. The whole street is fed up of the buses."

Another video filmed from Ms Harris' house in January shows two double-deck National Express buses squeezed into a tight gap before one



Jane Harris in Cupfields Avenue



It's a tight fit around the bend



Diamond and National Express buses squeeze by. Credit: Nicole Hemmings

of their drivers is forced to reverse to allow a car to pass.

Eventually the buses pass but only through driving on both pavements.

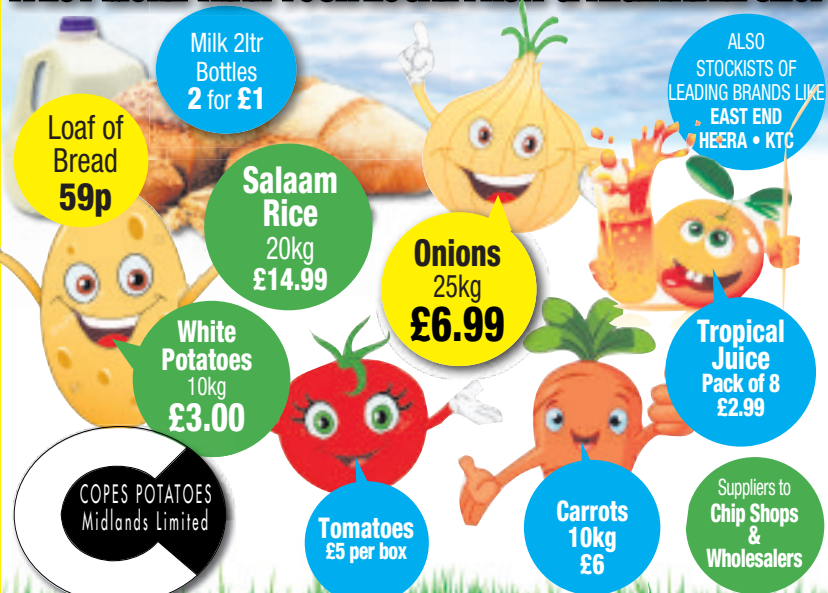
Ms Harris said she had contacted the Traffic Commissioner in Birmingham but had been told to put her video onto a disc so they could investigate further. Great Bridge councillor Joanne Hadley held a meeting with

the bus companies over a year ago asking for buses to be diverted away from Cupfields Avenue but was told that would not be possible.

Diamond runs services around the Black Country and in West Bromwich, Walsall, Stourbridge and Halesowen. Sandwell Council, Diamond Bus and National Express were unavailable for comment at the time of going to press.

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On the right track with memorabilia from trains

ANTIQUES AND COLLECTIBLES

By John Ridgway of Perry & Phillips



A NUMBER of people contact our saleroom to ask if railway ephemera is collectible and the answer is a resounding yes!

It always has been and continues to be – particularly at the Perry and Phillips saleroom – because we have the Severn Valley Railway right here in town and therefore many rail enthusiasts living locally, all of whom are keen collectors and extremely knowledgeable.

Railway memorabilia ranges from small items like tickets, photographs, postcards, posters, whistles and timetables to larger pieces such as name plates, signs and even signalling equipment, ticket machines and platform benches.

The list is extensive, also look out for maps, notices, radios, lanterns and wall plaques, plus any books written by vintage rail experts and journals, and buttons and badges.

Vintage photographs in particular are valuable, especially if they are accompanied by details about a specific journey and a date.

Anything bearing a recognised 'name' will attract the collectors, from dining car menus to napkins and even plates and silverware – we sold some Great Western Railway silver-plated meat servers a few years ago!

The nineteenth century really was the golden age of the train, with rail companies springing up all over Britain, and names of rail lines to look out for run into hundreds.

Enthusiasts will pay a good deal of money for nostalgic souvenirs of this era, several years ago a man in Torquay saw his vast collection of rail memorabilia sell for thousands of pounds at auction (but he had collected thousands of items!).



Amongst pieces he had amassed over the years were a brass plate for a steam engine, a cast iron and copper steam locomotive chimney pot, restaurant car cutlery, brass cap badges, signalmen's uniforms, a station master's oak

desk, a brass whistle, brass locks for carriage doors, ticket collectors' punches, timetables and station signage, including one for the gentlemen's lavatory.

Station clocks can sell for hundreds of pounds, especially if they feature specific names, and both clocks and other items relating to station hotels are also on the collectors' wishlist.

Certain experts only collect items associated with a particular train, company or rail line and anything dating back to either of the two world wars will be especially of interest.

Of course regional railway memorabilia will always attract most attention when sold in its own locality, hence the popularity of the Severn Valley Railway pieces we see in the Perry and Phillips saleroom – and it is bought by non-enthusiasts also as reminders of the station's essential role in the town's history.

As with all antiques and collectables, always check condition before you buy but don't be afraid of a little restoration work if it's necessary, it will be worth the effort!

Perry & Phillips holds valuation days, for sale items only, every Wednesday from 10am until 4pm at its Mill Street saleroom in Low Town, Bridgnorth, and auctions of antiques and collectibles are held on the first Tuesday of each month.

Festival fashion is floral, fun and comfortable



Time to get the festival look

FESTIVAL season is here! The music festival can be traced back to Ancient Greece and the 10th Century BC.

Today it is likely that a large majority of us will visit an outdoor music event, big or small, sometimes travelling to other countries to see the artists we love.

We all hear about Glastonbury and its headliners and specialist stages catering for every genre of music and every year we see new clothing styles defining the new ideas, alternative, cultural and spiritual, 'Woodstock' is said to have changed history.

The shorts, hair flowers, T-shirts and wellies (of course) are the staple items but each year the artists and bands bring new inspirational looks.

Coachella Festival, near Palm Springs in the USA is the leader in style, every year the event, sponsored by H&M, attract the great, the good, the celebrity and the fashionista.

It gives them the excuse to dress to express themselves, quirky and unusual, the photo opportunity expectation.

This year has seen space age looks, metallic fabrics, coloured hair (a staple for any festi-

STYLE FOCUS

With Janet Timmis



val), long floaty gypsy dresses, handkerchief skirts and gladiator sandals, after all they can almost guarantee good weather.

The rules should be, NO RULES. Dress to be comfortable, the importance is to enjoy the time listening to the music, playtime with friends, a summer picnic.....no one will be judging what you wear.

Sunglasses

Wear what suits the day, the varied, delightful, unpredictable English weather, it could be wet, cold, sunny or hot, you will need those wellies and the large bag with the sun cream, umbrella, wet wipes, bottle of water, sunglasses, a fleece and a hat, the picnic basket filled with scrummy delights and blanket to relax on.....every opportunity to make a statement!

Shropshire hosts some great events to visit, Farmer Phils Music Festival near Shrewsbury, Bridgnorth Music and Arts and Joles Rock and Bowl at the Market Drayton Picnic area 'The biggest little festival', established in 2009 and going strong.

High street store or charity shop vintage, the choice is yours.

Find some florals and mix them with some more, wear shorts under a lightweight skirt and a baggy T-shirt tied at the hem, a denim jacket, baggy or neat fit....top off with a straw hat and if you can only find a wedding tifter, take off the fussy trim and wrap a scarf around the brim.

Welly boots now come in all sorts of designs to suit every personality and pocket and thank goodness for the trendy tote bag to load all our necessities.

So book your tickets, find something you love to wear and have a whale of a time this summer.

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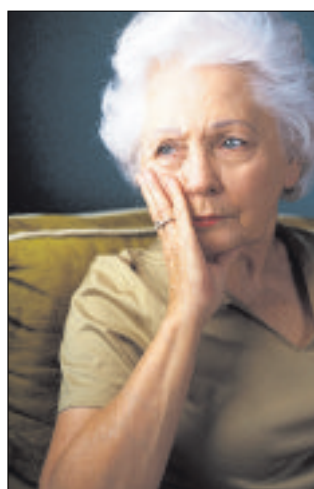


By 2030, the number of people aged over 60 will rise to 24 per cent



More than half of the over 75s live alone, according to the Office for National Statistics

Beating loneliness can also bring health boost



Everyone can feel lonely at some point

THE good news is we're all living longer. But the bad news is, we're more likely to experience loneliness and isolation as we get older – which can seriously affect our health.

A recent review by British scientists, which looked at 181,000 people, found that, for those who were lonely and isolated, the risk of heart disease was raised by 29 per cent and stroke by 32 per cent.

The scientists from York, Liverpool and Newcastle universities wrote in the medical journal Heart: "We found an association between poor social relationships and incident cardiovascular disease comparable in size to other recognised psychosocial risk factors, such as anxiety and job strain."

Why are older people more lonely? The Campaign to End Loneliness (www.campaigntoendloneliness.org) says there are greater 'risk factors' for loneliness in older age, such as retirement, bereavement, hearing or sight loss, decreased mobility and lower incomes.

More than half of the over 75s live alone, according to the Office for National Statistics, with almost five million people saying their main form of company is TV.

By Kate Whiting

By 2030, the number of people aged over 60 will rise to 24 per cent. In the next 20 years, the population of those aged over 80 will treble and those over 90 will double, according to the Campaign.

How can you future-proof against loneliness?

Whether you're six or 66, everyone can feel lonely at some point. And the emotion can last for a day, or be much longer term.

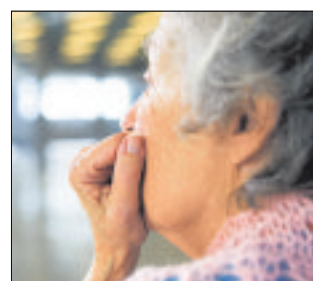
The Campaign to End Loneliness has the following advice for feeling healthy and happy:

1. Think about yourself
Think about what you would like more of - maybe time with friends or family, if so invite them to visit.

Often if you are lonely, you think people do not want to visit. This is understandable, but often people will respond to an invitation and will come and spend quality time with you.

2. Look after yourself
If you can do something to improve your health, take small steps to eat well, take gentle exercise and keep active, all of these things can help you to relax more fully in your own company.

3. Share your skills and time with others
You can offer time or specific skills by



Loneliness can seriously affect health

helping out in your street, neighbourhood or with local organisations. You could volunteer with the Royal Voluntary Service, Sense or Independent Age who support older people.

4. Your community and neighbourhood
Find out what local activities are being planned and book them up: walks, singing groups, book clubs and bridge.

For example, Contact the Elderly and the University of the Third Age have a wide range of local social groups and activities across the UK.

Chance to give hotel in Wall Heath a new lease of life

A HOTEL in Wall Heath has been put on the market with new occupiers being sought to 'maximise its potential'.

The budget hotel that traded as The Kingfisher ceased trading last year. However, Lex Allan estate agents say the 40-room site has received interest from potential buyers.

The building in Kidderminster Road, which is separate to the new Hickory Smokehouse restaurant and adjoining health spa, is estimated at a rental value of £65,000 per year.

Ian Appleby, commercial property surveyor at Lex Allan, said: "The hotel closed around six months ago. It was rented by the owners to a tenant who didn't succeed with the venture. Prior to this it was run by the current owners. New furnishings, carpets and redecoration has

been done, hence the premium requested. It isn't connected to Hickory's Smoke House at all. We have had viewings and an offer and there continues to be interest."

A description on the website says that there are 40 en suite rooms.

The advertisement on Lex Allan's website states: "The premises are very well located on the edge of open countryside, yet affording easy access to the business centres of Wolverhampton and Dudley and further afield to Birmingham."

The hotel was situated behind the popular Kingfisher Club which was transformed into Hickory's Smokehouse last summer. The Kingfisher Country Club itself was built in the 1930s when it was known as the Kingfisher Lido, where it housed the only Olympic-sized swimming pool outside of London.



The former Kingfisher Hotel in Wall Heath has received lots of interest from potential new operators

College given £874k for artificial pitch

DUDLEY College has netted an £874,000 grant to help install a 3G artificial pitch at its Priory Road site.

The college secured the cash pot from the Premier League and the FA Facilities Fund. It will go towards the £1.3 million needed to create the new all-weather training complex. The Priory Road 3G Football Complex is due to open in September this year, a month after the start of the new football season.

College bosses said the facility, which will include changing rooms for players and officials as well as a stand for spectators, will be open for use by community and lower league teams as well as the college's own students.

Principal Lowell Williams said: "By working together with a range of partners, including the Premier League and The FA Facilities Fund, Dudley Council and Castle High School, we have been able to make the dream of a 3G pitch a reality."

"The college is keen this becomes a shared community resource and we are eager to hear from junior or senior clubs that would be interested in using it."

Robbery on bus lands three thugs in prison

A MOBILE phone has led to three thugs being sent to jail for between three-and-a-half and four-and-a-half years.

The trio struck on a bus travelling from the Merry Hill Shopping Centre in Brierley Hill to Birmingham, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

They surrounded a pair of teenagers, aged 15 and 16, who were sitting on the top deck.

By John Scott

Curtis Hendrickson, aged 26, Norman Corbett, 21, and Leo Connolly, 22 – all with previous convictions – had boarded the bus shortly after the two teens on January 2 last year.

Mr Ian Ball, prosecuting, said: "The three defendants engaged the lads in conversation before switching seats so that they were both in front and behind them."

"Corbett had brought a knife with him and this was used to reinforce the threats. They surrounded the lads and said: 'What have you got for me? What about a phone?'"

The teenagers both gave the gang their phones but one was rejected because it had a cracked screen.

The other victim refused to reveal the password for his mobile until the knife was pointed at him.

He later told police: "I was just happy not to be stabbed. It was only a phone and I cancelled the SIM card." But his friend conceded: "I was very scared and felt intimidated. I didn't know what they were going to do next."

The victims contacted the police who checked CCTV from the bus and recog-

nised the culprits, who were arrested on various dates between April 22 and June 24 last year. Corbett and Hendrickson were already in custody for other offences when tracked down.

The defendants all had a significant number of previous convictions and, in the case of Corbett, these included eight robberies, some of which were carried out at knife-point on buses in carbon copies of the latest offence. Connolly was said to have mental issues caused by excessive drug use.

Connolly, of Langdale Road, Great Barr, and Hendrickson, of Hampton Road, Erdington, were each jailed for three-and-a-half years while Corbett, of Dingle Street, Oldbury, received a four-and-a-half year sentence. Each defendant admitted robbery and attempted robbery.

Recorder Abigail Nixon told them: "This was a terrifying offence against two lads who were minding their own business on a bus. You all played your part in intimidating them simply for a mobile phone."

Ex-police chief takes on £1,000 a day job

EX-WEST Midlands Chief Constable Chris Sims has taken up a top police job earning £1,000 a day.

Mr Sims, who retired in January with a pension believed to be worth around £150,000 per year, is now working as an adviser for the National Police Chiefs' Council, the body for senior police officers. He will work two days a week at a rate of £1,000 a day – worth the equivalent of £260,000 pro rata or £125 per hour based on a normal working day.

As Chief Constable, he was paid £200,000 a year in salary and benefits and oversaw cuts of £125 million – with 1,300 officers losing their jobs.

A spokesman for the National Police Chiefs' Council said: "Chris Sims is extremely well qualified to advise on important national work that aims to improve policing for the public. The changes will help police tackle new threats and improve the service for the public."

Mr Sims was contacted for comment.



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Condition is all important for vintage clothes

ANTIQUES AND COLLECTIBLES

By John Ridgway of Perry & Phillips



VINTAGE clothes and accessories have been very popular for the past few years and people seem to be prepared to part with a considerable amount of cash to gain these items – but you don't have to spend a fortune if you keep your eye on your local sale-room catalogues!

Quite often vintage clothing, shoes, handbags, hats and powder compacts go under the hammer and it's worth putting in a bid as you may well come away with a bargain.

Condition is all important, anything prior to the 1920s should be carefully checked for signs of wear and tear and bear in mind also with Victorian and Edwardian pieces that they tend to be smaller than clothes worn today – and Victorian lace-up boots, though lovely, are difficult to find above a size five.

Be sure also that any vintage garment you consider buying should be fit to wear, some fabrics still look good but have become flimsy with age and – although they might look great on a hanger – just won't stand up to being worn and would usually be bought by a fashion collector.

And remember that vintage clothes will need to be well looked after, many won't survive a washing machine and should be hand-washed or even dry-cleaned.

Having said all that, good quality vintage clothes and accessories can be fun to wear and use – and prove a good investment!

Fifties clothes are especially popular, it seems, they do represent the elegance of the era and designer names to look out for include Balmain, Givenchy, Dior, Balenciaga and of course Chanel.

Obviously items with a 'name' sell for good prices – but as with everything on sale at auction it all depends on who is there on the day and bidding.

The older designer items will catch the eye of the collectors so you should be prepared to pay a little more if you aim to do auction battle with the experts!

Clothes made prior to the swinging sixties will usually be of a better quality, having been manufactured before the days of factory production.

However, the sixties and seventies styles have made a real comeback over the past few years, vintage clothes designer names of note include Biba, Yves St Laurent, Mary Quant, Zandra Rhodes, Laura Ashley, Ralph Lauren, Calvin Klein, Jean Muir and Halston.

The eighties saw a fashion revolution by the punks and the New Romantics, designer labels to look out for include Jean Paul Gaultier and of course Vivienne Westwood.

And we mustn't forget that the saleroom often offers vintage clothes and accessories for men as well as women!

You can find anything from Victorian top-hats and Edwardian cufflinks to 1940s and 1950s scarves and ties to sixties hats, suits and jackets and original punk rock tee-shirts.

So think about adding some vintage style to your wardrobe – and head off to the saleroom!

Perry and Phillips holds valuation days, for sale items only, every Wednesday from 10am until 4pm at its Mill Street saleroom in Low Town, Bridgnorth, and auctions of antiques and collectibles are held on the first Tuesday of each month.



Fashion now follows us right from birth



Some of Asda's children's range

A FRIEND'S daughter has just had a baby, the baby shower gifts brought clothing of all types and styles for the newborn, the birth added more to the ever growing wardrobe of the two-week old fashionista.

She has already grown out of most of the garments and the local charity shop has a rail of brand new baby items for sale at next to nothing prices, labels and all.

She is still left with a different outfit for everyday of the week, accessories galore and several garments suitable for the next six months, from the present giver who allowed for growth.

Surprising as it may be there are now fashion trends and new seasonal designer ranges for newborn to toddler and beyond.

Younger and younger models sport smaller versions of adult catwalk clothing, colour combined ranges of mix and match styles. There is effectively as much work in one of these tiny pieces as in the adult versions, just less fabric and more safety regulations (draw-cord length restriction, trim attachment and fire safety), amazing that the prices of the high street versions are such good value.

STYLE FOCUS

with Janet Timmis



For this spring and summer animal, nature, sea and coastline prints feature strongly and alongside the inevitable primary colours we will see soft watercolour effects and artist hand drawn designs. The newest colours feature French navy, soft blues, beige, cream, coffee and sandy tones.

Tropical

The designers are also trying to promote healthy eating by including fruit and vegetable prints on their clothing, this also shows in a strong tropical theme. You will see these promotional graphics appearing on packaging and bed linen as well as parents try to persuade their children to eat their 5 a day.

The shapes and styles are copied from adult trends with mothers and daughters and fathers and sons in the same outfits...are we

seeing a return to the 1960's/1970's family group in their matching hand knitted cardigans? It seems more that the children aspire to their parent's style.

There is still plenty of Disney and TV character inspired garments around but take note of the accessories, scarves, belts, sunglasses, hats, hair flowers, shoes, jewellery and bags, all designed to mix and match and complete a look. Do our children really need sunglasses and shoes to match every outfit...it seems they do! While walking around the retailers to look what's on offer I notice the children's sections are growing taking over at least a third of the sales floor, often more, I also find myself loving the products on offer and musing over who I know that I can buy for. The 'Ahhhhhh' factor has caught us all.

The large supermarket chains offer some fabulous children's clothing at great prices and cover ages from newborn to teenager. No more hand-me-downs, unless of course your older sister has a dress you really, really want.

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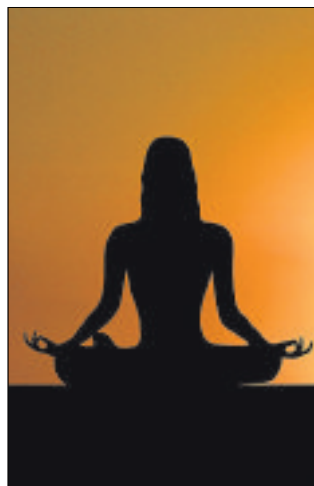


Yoga can help if you suffer from anxiety or asthma



Yoga can also help with arthritis and mobility problems

List grows longer for merits of regular yoga



Regular yoga has many health benefits

WE all know yoga is a great form of exercise, but did you know it can help cure numerous conditions? Here we take a closer look at the benefits.

Devotees have long championed the endless powers of yoga for soothing both body and mind – and the list of ailments the ancient practice can ease has officially just got longer.

So if you don't already start the day with a sun salutation, you might want to start, especially if you have asthma, as researchers at the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) have just found that yoga could improve quality of life for people who suffer with the respiratory condition.

The team, who reviewed results from 15 studies around the world, noted how yoga breathing exercises and poses are thought to help expand the chest, as well as relaxing muscles in the airways.

On top of that, the meditative element of yoga practice also reduces anxiety, which asthma can trigger, and boosts mood.

But it's not just people with asthma who could benefit.

Here are some of the other common complaints that could be soothed by regular yoga...

By Kate Whiting

ARTHRITIS

People who suffer from arthritis find certain forms of modified yoga can gently help to increase flexibility and strength. A study of the impact of yoga on people with osteoarthritis in their knees by Sharon Kolinski, MD, a professor of clinical medicine and a rheumatologist at the University of Pennsylvania, found that weekly 90-minute, modified Iyengar yoga classes reduced pain and stiffness in joints and improved physical function after eight weeks. The NHS recommends finding a teacher who understands arthritis and can adapt the yoga poses for your needs.

PREVENTION OF FALLS

Older people are more likely to suffer injuries, such as bone fractures, as the result of a fall, with around one in three over the age of 65 said to suffer at least one fall a year. But research has shown that exercises like yoga and Tai Chi can improve balance, by strengthening muscles in the legs, ankles and knees. This can lower the risk of falls, and injury rates.

BACK PAIN

Postures like the Cat and Downward Dog, when done everyday, can help to soothe mild back pain by gently stretching the spine and easing muscle tension. But make

sure you see a doctor if you have acute back pain, and tell your yoga teacher about any complaints before you start.

BLOOD PRESSURE AND HEART DISEASE

In a 2009 trial of people who did Iyengar yoga for three months, researchers at the University of Pennsylvania found that high blood pressure, which is connected with an increased risk of stroke and cardiovascular disease, was reduced. Cardiologist Dr Dean Ornish led a study in 1990 which showed that coronary artery disease could be reversed, without the need for drugs, through a combination of diet, exercise and lifestyle changes – with yoga cited for its stress reduction benefits.

BEING OVERWEIGHT

Yoga might look gentle but it's actually very effective exercise.

Plus, because it helps reduce stress and bolsters moods, it could help in addressing compulsive and emotional eating patterns.

The British Wheel Of Yoga's Paul Fox told the Daily Mail: "GPs now refer patients to yoga for weight loss. Most people are obese because of their relationship with food."

"Yoga builds body awareness and can help people deal with stress and other emotional problems that may be causing them to overeat."

Striking similarities with Dagenham show



Kathryn Trigg, centre, with Made in Dagenham cast members from the operatic society, Eileen Woolley and Tasheka Coe

WHEN the story of the Dagenham machinists whose strike led to the Equal Pay Act reached the Wolverhampton stage last week, behind the scenes was the story of a similar stand made by Black Country women.

Ticket secretary Kathryn Trigg stunned fellow members of the West Bromwich Operatic Society – performing one of the first amateur productions of Made in Dagenham at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre – by revealing she had been a real-life strike leader. In 1975 she led a group

of shorthand typists out on strike at Bronx Engineering in Lye – and, just like the Dagenham women led by Rita O'Brien, they won.

Kathryn, 21 at the time, took on the role of union rep for the typing pool at Bronx. She said: "I wasn't militant, in fact I was quite timid but no one else wanted to do the job."

Union TASS suggested the shorthand typists push for equal pay.

"We deemed ourselves to be skilled workers because we'd gone to college for at least 12 months but we were paid a lot less than the men who were doing an equivalent job. We compared ourselves to a young lad in the drawing office who'd had one week's

training and just operated the printing machine and kept it topped up with fluid, yet he was paid twice as much as we were.

"We met with the management and when we told them we wanted equal pay, they said 'no way'."

About 20 women, three-quarters of the typists, walked out. Three of them, including Kathryn, went to London to be interviewed by Dudley-born presenter Sue Lawley on national TV about their struggle.

In the end about a dozen more joined them on the picket line, including men, and the strike ended after a month with a new pay structure agreed.

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Oily fish such as salmon can help to keep your blood pressure alright



Fancy some wholemeal bread toast and poached egg with green salad, avocado and peas?

Starting the day with a healthier breakfast

By Kate Whiting

WHAT did you have for breakfast today – slice of toast, bowl of cereal?

Maybe you went whole hog with a juicy fry-up – but, if that was the case, you might want to rethink your morning meal of choice, especially if you're concerned about safeguarding your future health.

Google's top futurist Ray Kurzweil, who's 67, says his 'biological age' is in the 40s. Why? Because he lives such a healthy life, apparently, including a surprisingly calorie-laden but grease-free breakfast.

He believes his diet, which also includes several thousands of dollars worth of supplements, will help him live forever.

The key to his breakfast, he told The Financial Times, is "healthy carbs" such as porridge, that "fill you up with fewer calories". Here's what he eats in the morning...

BERRIES (85 calories for a cup)

Red berries, especially blueberries, are a good source of vitamin K. They also contain vitamin C, fibre, manganese and other antioxidants (notably anthocyanins). A 2012 study found that women who ate three or more portions of blueberries and strawberries a week had a 32 per cent lower risk of a heart attack.

DARK CHOCOLATE INFUSED WITH ESPRESSO (170 calories for an ounce)

Alison Hornby, a dietitian and British Dietetic Association spokesperson, told the NHS: "A range of health benefits from the consumption of cocoa products have been investigated, particularly in relation to cardiovascular disease, with early results showing promise. However, the potential health benefit of some compounds in chocolate have to be weighed against the fact that to make chocolate, cocoa is combined with sugar and fat."

SMOKED SALMON AND MACKEREL (100 calories for a 3oz serving)

The Government recommends we eat at least two portions of fish a week, one of which should be oily, such as salmon, mackerel or sardines.

Hornby says: "The benefits of fish include keeping your blood pressure at a healthy level and improving blood lipids, both of which reduce your risk of cardiovascular disease: the biggest killer in the UK."

VANILLA SOY MILK (100 calories for a cup)

Soy or soya 'milk' is a good source of protein, and low in fat. BBC Good Food says: "Soy-based foods can help to manage cholesterol levels, although you need about 25g soy protein, or three to four glasses of soya milk a day, to achieve this. Some brands are fortified with calcium and vitamins A and D." It's best to get ones with no added sugar.

STEVIA (zero calories)

Billed as a natural sweetener, Stevia uses purified extracts from the leaves of the stevia plant, called steviol glycosides, which are 200 to 300 times sweeter than sugar – as well as being calorie-free.



Billed as a superfood, the antioxidant catechin in green tea has been found to help lower cholesterol and blood pressure



We love a fried breakfast, but there are many healthier options

PORRIDGE (150 to 350 calories for half a cup)

A bowl of porridge oats contains enough beta glucan to help lower cholesterol, as part of a balanced diet and healthy lifestyle. They're 100 per cent wholegrain, a source of fibre, naturally low in saturated fat and salt and contain thiamin, vitamin B6, folate, iron, magnesium and zinc.

GREEN TEA (zero calories)

Billed as a superfood, the antioxidant catechin in green (and black) tea has been found to help lower cholesterol and blood pressure.

Inspiration

In need of some more brekkie inspiration? Try these...

Squid, miso soup and seaweed – The Japanese islands of Okinawa have more centenarians than anywhere in the world, and very low rates of breast and prostate cancer. According to Dr Craig Wilcox, author of The Okinawa Program, Japanese people eat at least "three servings of fish a week", plus plenty of wholegrains, vegetables and soy products – and "more tofu and more konbu seaweed than anyone else in the world, as



Porridge is 100 per cent wholegrain and low in salt

well as squid and octopus, which are rich in taurine, that could lower cholesterol and blood pressure".

A small glass of orange juice – It's what New Yorkers drink for breakfast, so the ad told us, and according to new research by the OJ brand, 150ml of Tropicana (63 calories) is all you need to get 60 per cent of your daily vitamin C.

Eggs and avocado on wholegrain toast – A real winner and a great source of protein. The toast and avocado are great sources of fibre and avocados have high amounts of 'good' fat omega-3.

Which little fishy does the most for our health?

We all know fish and seafood can be good for us, but which ones should we be eating and why? From brain boosts to staving off depression, ABI JACKSON scales through the ocean's superfoods

1. SALMON

Often hailed as one of the healthiest foods in the world, salmon boasts endless vitality-boosting benefits. Firstly, it's a good source of lean protein, which helps keep you feeling full for longer, supports muscle growth and repair and boosts metabolism, making it great for helping maintain a healthy weight. Secondly, it's packed full of nutrients, like omega 3 fatty acid – known, among other things, to promote heart and brain health – and iron, calcium and selenium, which has antioxidant properties, meaning it could help protect against certain cancers and support healthy immune function. A super-strong all-rounder.



2. SARDINES, MACKEREL, RAINBOW TROUT

Oily fish can be a cost-effective way of giving your diet a mega-healthy boost. Varieties like sardines and mackerel are among the best sources of omega 3 you'll find, and there's substantial scientific evidence that including them in your diet can play a significant role in reducing risk of cardiovascular disease, as well as dementia. In 2013, researchers at Harvard School of Public Health and the University of Washington published findings indicating that older people with omega 3-rich diets were 25 per cent less likely to die prematurely and a third less likely to die of heart disease. They're also a good source of vitamin D, essential for helping the body absorb calcium, to keep bones and teeth healthy – and something many Brits are lacking, particularly during winter with the lack of sunlight, possibly resulting in low mood, depression and fatigue.

3. COD, PLAICE, HADDOCK

White fish doesn't quite measure up to oily fish in the nutrition stakes, though it does still contain some omega 3, and can be a good source of selenium, B vitamins – which play a key role in a range of vital functions, including energy production, cell metabolism, immune function and skin health – plus iodine, important for thyroid function.

Perhaps the best thing about white fish, though, is that it's a very good example of a lean, low-fat source of protein, so including them in your diet can help avoid weight gain and the health risks associated with consuming too much red meat, like an increased risk of heart disease, stroke and cancer.



4. OYSTERS

They tend to be a 'love them or hate them' food, but oysters – as well as being famed for their aphrodisiacal properties – have another super-power up their slippery sleeve: they're one of the best sources of zinc. This important mineral plays a range of roles, as more than 300 different enzymes rely on zinc to function properly, including energy and cell metabolism, skin and eye health, and organ, immune and digestive function. It's also believed that zinc deficiency can impact how our brain and body responds to stress.

5. PRAWNS

Low in fat and calories, but high in protein, prawns are a great dietary addition for maintaining a healthy weight. It's also worth mentioning their calcium and potassium contents – helpful for bones, teeth and brain, heart and nerve function – plus vitamins A and E, which play a role in keeping eyes and skin healthy and supporting immune function.

6. MUSSELS

These tasty little morsels are another protein, selenium, iron and omega 3 source. They're also one of the top natural sources of vitamin B12.

For some people, a major deficiency in B12 (which isn't always just linked to diet but could, for example, be due to an autoimmune condition called pernicious anaemia) could lead to serious long-term complications, affecting heart health, fertility and nervous system function.

To find out more, visit www.nhs.uk/Livewell/Good-food/Pages/fish-shellfish.aspx

Farage stops off on Brexit battle bus



UKIP leader Nigel Farage during his walkabout in Dudley town centre after his Brexit battle bus rolled in

NIGEL Farage accused David Cameron and George Osborne of peddling 'a constant diet of lies' over the European Union referendum.

The UKIP leader was greeted by hundreds as he was driven into the town centre on the party's purple open-top Brexit battle bus - dubbed the giant aubergine. Many held placards bearing the words: 'We want our country back' and cheered loudly when the bus pulled into Market Place.

The theme tune from The Great Escape blasted out as Mr Farage addressed the cheering throng from the top of the bus against a backdrop of the Black Country flag.

He said: "Our politicians have given away control of our country. I'm beginning to think Brussels isn't the enemy. "The real enemy is our political class, backed up with the multi-national companies and the big banks and the constant diet of lies we get from Osborne and Cameron."

Pension talks to save jobs

THE Government is launching a consultation on changes to pensions law as part of its efforts to save Indian group Tata's UK steel business.

The firm has been under threat since Tata revealed it was looking to sell or even close the loss-making operation, which employs 11,000 people in the UK including about 750 in the Black Country.

Business Secretary Sajid Javid unveiled the plan to MPs just hours after returning from Mumbai where he met executives of the Indian conglomerate.

The suggested change includes cutting the British Steel Pension Fund's long-term liabilities by benchmarking it to the consumer price index rather than the higher retail price index.

The move could save £2.5bn, but would reduce benefits to those receiving pensions. The British Steel pension scheme has 130,000 members and assets of £13.3bn, but its deficit has grown to nearly £700 million.

Mr Javid said the consultation on the scheme was designed to provide clarity and security for members.

The steel unions are waiting to see details of the consultation.

Former pensions minister in the coalition, Liberal Democrat Steve Webb, director of policy at pensions firm Royal London, has warned that the Government is "going down a very dangerous path" in seeking to change the law.

Meanwhile, Mr Javid has also been talking to Tata Steel's bosses about the sale of its UK business. Seven potential bidders have come forward.

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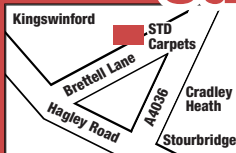
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Try china ‘trios’ for vintage look at tea-time

ANTIQUES AND COLLECTIBLES

By John Ridgway of Perry & Phillips



THERE'S something very attractive about the idea of a traditional summer garden party, harking back to days of yore and complete with cucumber sandwiches, bone china and real glasses.

So this summer why not recreate the past and have a vintage style al fresco picnic, tea or dinner party?

Old china is popular at present – but that doesn't mean that is going to be expensive, on the contrary because you don't have to buy the collectable items.

Neither does it all have to match, you can choose a colour scheme and stick to it or just go with what looks pretty.

Some makes of china may cost a little bit more, such as certain pieces of Coalport or Midwinter for example, but generally speaking it is very affordable.

Look out for china trios, cup, saucer and plate, and sets of small plates that would be perfect for sandwiches and cakes at a picnic and dinner plates for the table.

Also see if you can find a vintage cake stand, these are really lovely, and old meat chargers are perfect for bread rolls.

Smaller serving plates are great for cold meat or cheeses, and old china jugs are ideal for lemonade and other cold drinks – but do make sure they don't leak before you serve your drinks!

You can also find some lovely pieces of vintage Pyrex that would be perfect for a picnic – they are often brightly coloured or patterned and you can get everything from small pudding bowls to serving dishes.



On to glass items, probably best not used on a picnic but ideal for summer tea or dinner parties. You can find some lovely coloured wine glasses at very reasonable prices, glass sherry and shot glasses for evening parties and pretty 1950s tumblers for soft drinks.

Of course, if you want to spend more on luxury entertaining vintage-style you could go for the more expensive china, such as Royal Albert Country Roses, Royal Worcester's Evesham Gold, Rockingham, Spode and so on.

Some people do invest a good deal of money in vintage china, we sold a collection of 1930s Royal Worcester cups, saucers and tea-plates dating from the 1930s earlier this year for an amazing £1,700.

The china was painted in fruit designs by different artists and it was very beautiful – although perhaps not robust enough for use in a picnic!

You may also be able to pick up an old wicker hamper for a picnic (Fortnum and Masons ones are nice) and why not complete the vintage look with a lace cloth – then you will have whisked your family and friends back to a very civilised summer day from years gone by!

Perry and Phillips holds valuation days, for sale items only, every Wednesday from 10am until 4pm at its Mill Street saleroom in Low Town, Bridgnorth, and auctions of antiques and collectibles are held on the first Tuesday of each month.

Here's to keeping our traditional crafts alive



Knitting is easy, creative and fun

HOW we spend our evenings has changed dramatically over the years.

With the invention of television the wonderful creative arts and crafts have all but disappeared.

We no longer sit sewing, knitting or embroidering, in fact we rarely write or draw either, our phones and their link to the world have become our outlet.

There has been a revival of these amazingly technical abilities recently, but it seems to appeal to the slightly older generation and not our teenagers.

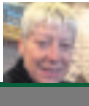
Most of the people I teach are learning to sew to make household items (curtains and cushions) and to knit, crochet and embroider just for the fun of it.

Generally, they have a basic knowledge of the crafts from their childhood.

Most of the students I have taught on fashion design courses at college wish to design but not make, I am a strong believer in managing people only when able to do the job of the people you manage, a garment cannot be designed without the ability to make it yourself.

STYLE FOCUS

with Janet Timmis



The ability to produce our own garments is slowly being lost in the onset of time, our children no longer taught these important skills in school.

Wardrobes

At one time it would be cheaper to make our own garments but we can now purchase clothing from the likes of Primark for less than the cost of the fabric, our 'throwaway' society has completely changed our needs and we have full wardrobes of garments that last for no longer than a couple of wears!

Thirty years ago I would buy fabric from one of many local market stalls on Saturday morning, go home and make an outfit to go out in that very evening.....no one would be wearing anything similar, I could be individual and different.



Long Tall Sally lace look jacquard crop top and skirt



Missy Empire Brooke floral velvet suit



Office Ava red knotted block heel sandals, available from office.co.uk

Breaking the rules with tasteful wedding style



Damsel in a Dress Sabrina dress

WHEN it comes to getting dressed up for a wedding, there are so many 'rules' to follow that most end up being a sea of men in boring grey suits and women in humdrum floral frocks.

But unless you're at an ultra-conservative church do, most of this so-called protocol is outdated, and actually, pushing the boundaries can pay off style-wise, helping you stand out from the play-it-safe crowd.

Here's how to (tastefully) break the rules this wedding season...

BE THE BLACK SHEEP

The rule: Don't wear black

If your everyday wardrobe consists of black, black and more black, don't think you have to abandon your go-to hue for someone else's big day – but remember that wearing it head-to-toe in a church is going to look decidedly funereal.

Instead, look for a dress that breaks up the expanse of black with a print or texture – lace is ideal – and add intensely coloured accessories to lift the look.

FLASH A LITTLE FLESH

The rule: Never wear a crop top

The crucial word here is **LITTLE**: a V-neck halter crop top and mini skirt are

Report by Kate Wright

going to attract stares for all the wrong reasons, but a tiny sliver of midriff is acceptable. That sliver shouldn't include your belly button, however – pair high-waisted trousers, a pencil or full prom skirt (no shorter than knee-length) with a crop top in a structured fabric, like jacquard.

There are lots of matching co-ords in the shops at the moment that are the perfect proportions, thereby taking out the suitability guesswork.

BE RED-Y FOR ANYTHING

The rule: Don't wear red

Red used to signify vampish and vulgar, but as long as you don't turn up in a thigh-slit Jessica Rabbit-esque number, you needn't worry.

A pretty red lace or modern minimalist dress is totally wedding-appropriate, especially when teamed with more traditional floral footwear. It's all about balance.

PLAY YOUR STRONG SUIT

The rule: It has to be a dress

I've got to get a dress for a wedding', we so often whine, but why not use the occasion to step out of your comfort zone and try a suit?

Tailoring is having a huge fashion mo-

I often knitted jumpers for both myself and my husband and would embroider and draw as an art form, a hobby.

When my son was young I made almost all of his clothes.

There are very few independent shops that sell fabric, Abakhan in Hanley is the best stocked and everything you need can be purchased in one place. If you are visiting Birmingham go to The Fancy Silk Store in Moat Lane, near the Bullring, it is worth the visit with several floors of fabric. Alternatively, there is The Fabric Box in Stafford indoor market, Watson and Thornton in Mardol, Shrewsbury and most of the Dunelm stores. If you are looking for haberdashery and trimmings we have the Sewing Box in Market Drayton and Hobbycraft have a large range of delightful and creative items for many craft requirements.

Please try these new things. Take your time and enjoy the product of your labours. It's good fun, creative and practical.

Find out more at www.jflflexclusive.com and www.jflgarmentsolutions.co.uk
Follow: [jflifeandloves](https://www.tumblr.com/jflifeandloves) on tumblr

ment, so the shops are full of gorgeous floral and pastel two-pieces that you can jazz up with jewellery and heels.

The other advantage of a suit is that you'll get more post-wedding wear out of the separates, unlike the glitzy gowns that mostly hang unworn in our wardrobes for months (years, even) after the big day.

WAVE THE WHITE FLAG

The rule: Don't wear white

It's the most contentious etiquette question of all: is it ever OK for a guest to wear white to a wedding?

Modern manners dictate that you can, but with caution.

The key is that it can't look bridal in any way, so steer well clear of frothy all-white looks, in favour of sharp modern cuts and prints.

Use the 50/50 rule (no more than half of the outfit should be white), and make sure you include a bright jacket or scarf in the mix.

FASHION FLASH – BOMBS AWAY

The bomber jacket trend shows no sign of fading any time soon, as New Look reveals it has sold so many in 2016 that if they were laid out, they'd stretch to 40 times the height of Mount Everest. Floral numbers have been particularly popular.

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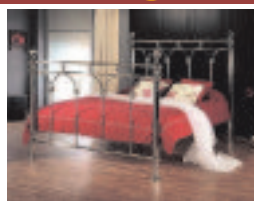
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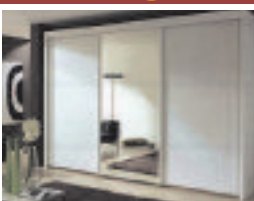
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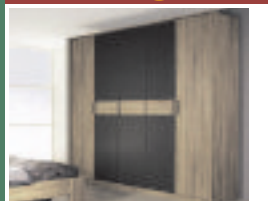
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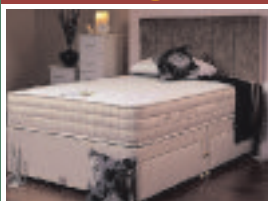
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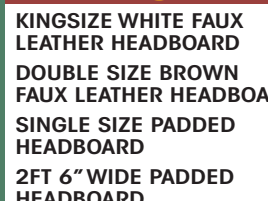
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Former Frankie Goes to Hollywood star Holly Johnson in action

Easy as ABC for fabulous fun from 80s



Tiffany, who will be performing at the country park



ABC's Martin Fry, with guitarist Matt Backer, watched by a huge crowd. The band has a new single out, Viva Love

COMMERCIAL FEATURE

LET'S Rock Birmingham!
The Retro Festival takes place on Saturday June 11 at Sandwell Valley Country Park.

With a fabulous line-up of artists to bring you the very best of the 80s, and an action packed day of general 80s madness – there is plenty to do for everyone at this family friendly festival.

The confirmed acts are Holly Johnson, Kim Wilde, Jimmy Somerville, ABC, Midge Ure, Go West, Nick Heyward, Five Star, Altered Images, Dr and the Medics, and Brother Beyond. Tiffany also returns to the UK stage, making her first appearance here in many years.

Let's Rock Birmingham! is aimed at the whole family. Children can enjoy a huge amount of stuff to keep them occupied, including circus workshops with the Bigtop-mania Circus, face painting, crafts, tricycles and the 'Disco Shack'!

There will be a super funfair as well as children's entertainers, meaning Let's Rock Birmingham! offers the perfect day out for all the family. There will also be multiple bars, plus a wide range of quality food outlets selling food from around the world.

VIP tickets allow access to a funky 80s-themed VIP enclosure, where you can sit back and relax in the comfy chill out zone or enjoy the outdoor seating area.

The VIP enclosure includes a full bar serving quality brands and 80s cocktails, plus of course the all important VIP luxury loos – essential at any festival!

VIP tickets include entry to the festival plus a souvenir programme, meal and welcome drink. Let's Rock! has been leading the way for quality, action-packed, family-friendly 80s music festivals since 2009.

Don't miss out on this chance for a retro blast from the past with the very best of the 80s. For further information and to book tickets, go to www.letsrockbirmingham.com



Jimmy Somerville all set to belt out his 80s hits

LET'S
ROCK
BIRMINGHAM

THE RETRO FESTIVAL

11th June 2016 | Sandwell Valley Country Park

HOLLY JOHNSON KIM WILDE
JIMMY SOMERVILLE MIDGE URE TIFFANY
ABC GO WEST NICK HEYWARD FIVE STAR
ALTERED IMAGES DR & THE MEDICS BROTHER BEYOND

After 8 years of 80s fun at sell out events around the country, **Let's Rock Birmingham!** comes to Sandwell Valley Country Park on Saturday 11th June 2016. **Let's Rock Birmingham!** offers a huge line-up of artists to bring you the very best of the 80s, and with an action packed day of general 80s madness, there's loads to do for everyone at this Family Friendly Festival.

VIP tickets allow access to our funky 80s themed VIP enclosure, where you can kick back and relax in our comfy chill out zone or enjoy the outdoor seating area.

Fancy dress is recommended, but not compulsory!

Gates open 11am
Festival starts 12pm

For further information and to book please visit:
www.letsrockbirmingham.com

www.letsrockbirmingham.com

Absolute Radio 80s

Sandwell Valley Country Park

Sandwell Valley Country Park

Child Bereavement UK

Child Bereavement UK

fast the ticket

Pappy power

Gala date lined up
for comedy trio
See Page 25



NATIVE MONSTER
Entertainment Unleashed

Teal appeal

Show hits town - Page 25

For full listings see **Express & Star** every Friday

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Bill Bailey



Friday, 7pm
Barclaycard Arena, B'ham
The musical comic and wildlife enthusiast brings his Limboland tour to Brum, exploring the gap between how we imagine our life to be and what it is in reality.
Visit www.barclaycardarena.co.uk

Beyond Caring



Wednesday to Saturday
Birmingham Repertory Theatre
The audience sit on the stage and the actors (including Janet Etuk, pictured) are in the stalls for this hard-hitting play which is centered around zero-hours contract cleaners.
Visit www.birmingham-rep.co.uk

Bobby Davro



Thursday, 7.30pm
New Alexandra Theatre, B'ham
The cheeky comic, actor and impressionist was one of the biggest British TV stars of the 80s and 90s and was recently back in Celebrity Big Brother. Visit www.atgtickets.com/venues/new-alexandra-theatre-birmingham

The Stairs



Sunday, 7.30pm
Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath
These 'cosmic Scousers' who split after one influential album have reunited 20 years later, again fronted by Edgar Jones (pictured).
Visit www.hareandhoundskingsheath.co.uk

POP & R'N'B

The Parlotones
Tomorrow at 7pm - 10pm, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7JZ.
Call 0844 870 0000

Nelly
Tomorrow at 7pm, O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB.
Call 0121 622 8250

Adam Ant
Tue at 7.30pm, Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

Busted
Tomorrow at 6pm, Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham, B1 2AA.
Call 0121 780 4141

Raymond Froggatt
Thu at 7.30pm, £17
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, SY3 8FT.
Call 01743 281281

An Intimate Evening With Russell Watson
Tomorrow at 7.30pm, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE.
Call 01902 573320

Savannah
Tomorrow, The Rose and Crown, Starchley Village, Telford, TF3 1DY.
Call 01952 321499

ROCK & METAL

Children Of The Gravy: Black Sabbath Tribute
Tonight at 7pm, £5
The RoadHouse Birmingham, Kings Norton, B30 3DZ.
Call 0121 246 2273

Grand Slam
Mon at 7.30pm, The Robin 2 Hotel, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

Limehouse Lizzy: Thin Lizzy Tribute
Tonight at 7.30pm, The Robin 2 Hotel, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

Dirty DC: AC/DC Tribute
Tomorrow at 7.30pm, The Robin 2 Hotel, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

Liberty Lies
Tonight at 7pm, The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton, WV1 1RQ.
Call 0870 320 7000

Remembrance Fest (in memory of Christina Edkins)
Tomorrow at 10pm, The Rainbow, Digbeth, Birmingham, B12 0LD.
Call 0121 753 1818

Muse Inc
Tomorrow at 7pm, The RoadHouse Birmingham, Kings Norton, B30 3DZ.
Call 0121 246 2273

The Stairs
Sun at 7.30pm - 11pm, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B12 7JZ.
Call 0844 870 0000

JAZZ, BLUES, SOUL & MOTOWN

The Urban Voodoo Machine
Tonight at 7pm, The Rainbow, Digbeth, Birmingham, B12 0LD.
Call 0121 753 1818

Clare Teal
Sun at 7.30pm, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE.
Call 01902 573320

Soul Legends
Tonight at 7.30pm, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE.
Call 01902 573320

Carl Sinclair Trio
Sun at 1pm - 3pm, Albrighton Sports & Social Club, WV7 3QT.
Call 07947 668750

The Kevin Brown Trio
Tonight at 7.30pm, £8
St George's Hall, Bewdley, DY12 2EQ.
Call 01299 400110

FOLK, COUNTRY & ACOUSTIC

Charlie Landsborough
Thu at 7.30pm, Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock, WS11 1DE.
Call 01543 578762

Pistol Pete Wearn
Mon at 8pm, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, ST16 2LT.
Call 01785 254653

The Johnny Cash Roadshow: Johnny Cash Tribute
Tue at 7.30pm, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE.
Call 01902 573320

CLASSICAL

City Of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra: Italian Symphony
Wed at 2.15pm, £12.50 - £43
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

Ross Leadbeater's Great British Songbook
Tomorrow at 7.30pm, Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

City Of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra: Friday Night Classics Songs From The Movies
Tonight at 7.30pm, £12.50 - £47
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

Steinway Fest 16
Thu at 4.20pm - 6pm, Gateway Education & Arts Centre, Shrewsbury, SY1 1NB.
Call 01743 355159

The Salvation Army presents Symphony Sounds 2016
Tomorrow at 6.30pm, Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

Lunchtime Organ Concert: Thomas Trotter & Catrin Finch
Mon at 1pm, Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

CBSO 2015-16 KS2 Schools' Concerts
Thu at 11.30am, 1.30pm, Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

COMEDY

Comedy night
Tonight, Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge, DY8 3TB.
Call 01384 374410

Bill Bailey: Limboland
Tonight at 8pm, £25 - £28.82
Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham, B1 2AA.
Call 0121 780 4141

Mark Steel: Who Do I Think I Am?
Tonight at 8pm, The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DY.
Call 0121 605 5116

Enrych In Stitches Comedy Fundraiser
Thu at 7.50pm, The Glee Club, Birmingham, B5 4TD.
Call 0871 472 0400

Upfront Comedy
Tomorrow at 8pm, mac, Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

The Best In Live Stand-up Comedy
Tonight at 8.15pm, Tomorrow at 8.15pm, The Glee Club, Birmingham, B5 4TD.
Call 0871 472 0400

EdinBrum Previews: Rob Rouse & Chrain Reilly
Thu at 7.30pm, mac, Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

Moore Laughter
Sun at 7pm - 10.30pm, Bar Risa, Birmingham, B1 2HF.
Call 0121 632 4936

Bobby Davro
Thu at 7.30pm, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

Max And Ivan: The End
Tonight at 8pm - 11pm, The Glee Club, Birmingham, B5 4TD.
Call 0871 472 0400

Hilarity Charity Gala
Mon at 7.30pm, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE.
Call 01902 573320

THEATRE

Welsh National Opera: Cavalleria Rusticana & Pagliacci
Thu at 7.15pm, £16.50 - £50
Birmingham Hippodrome, B5 4TB.
Call 0844 338 5000

Beyond Caring
Tue at 7pm - 9.20pm, Wed at 7.30pm - 9.50pm, Thu at 7.30pm - 9.50pm, Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP.
Call 0121 236 4455

Cats: The Musical
Tonight at 7.30pm, Tomorrow at 2.30pm, 7.30pm, Birmingham Hippodrome, B5 4TB. Call 0844 338 5000

Tom
Tonight at 7.30pm, Tomorrow at 2.30pm, 7.30pm, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

Hamlet
Thu at 7.30pm - 9.30pm, Ludlow Brewing Co, The Railway Shed, SY8 2PQ.
Call 01584 873291

Tell Me On A Sunday
Tomorrow at 7.30pm, £24.50 - £28.50
Palace Theatre, Redditch, B98 8AE. Call 01527 65203

Searching For The Happiness
Tomorrow at 11am, mac, Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

Dirty Dusting
Tomorrow at 7.30pm, Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock, WS11 1DE.
Call 01543 578762

Black Is The Color Of My Voice
Thu at 7.30pm, The Old Rep Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DY.
Call 0121 605 5116

The Quiet House
Tonight at 8pm, Tomorrow at 2.30pm, 8pm, Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP.
Call 0121 236 4455

The Spinning Wheel Keeps Turning
Thu at 8pm, mac, Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

A Flea In Her Ear: MD Amdrams
Thu at 7.30pm, Festival Drayton Centre, Market Drayton, TF9 3AX.
Call 01630 654444

None Zero One: Ground Control
Today at 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 5.30pm, Tomorrow at 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 5.30pm, Sun at 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 5.30pm, mac, Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

Crazy For You: The Viv Kelly Youth Theatre Group
Tonight at 7.30pm, Tomorrow at 7.30pm, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, SY3 8FT.
Call 01743 281281

Music Hall Memories
Wed at 2pm, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE. Call 01902 573320

Peppa Pig's Surprise (Under 5s)
Wed at 1pm, 4pm, Thu at 10am, 1pm, £13.50 - £22.90
Oakengates Theatre, Telford, TF2 6EP.
Call 01952 382382

The Debt Collectors
Tomorrow at 7.30pm, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, ST16 2LT.
Call 01785 254653

Dad's Army
Mon at 7.30pm, Tue at 7.30pm, Wed at 7.30pm, Thu at 7.30pm, The Rose Theatre, Broadwaters, Kidderminster, DY10 2RX.
Call 01562 743745

Pasha Kovalev: It's All About You
Sun at 7.30pm, Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR.
Call 01543 412121

Late Night Love
Tonight at 9.30pm, mac, Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

The Chris And Pui Show
Tomorrow at 11am, 2pm, Solihull Arts Complex, Touchwood, B91 3RG.
Call 0121 704 6962

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

Hilarity for charity at Grand night out

WOLVERHAMPTON'S own comedy group Pappy's, stars of TV series *Badults*, are among a stellar line-up of comics performing at the Hilarity Charity Gala 2016.

Comedy sketch trio Pappy's are Matthew Crosby, Ben Clark and Tom Parry, with Ben and Tom both being former members of Central Youth Theatre.

The trio have enjoyed four years of sell-out shows at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe and were Chortle Award winners in 2008 and 2013.

They found national fame with their BBC3 series *Badults*, which is now available on Netflix, an anarchic comedy about the misadventures of three flatmates.

Podcast

Pappy's also have a popular podcast called *Bangers And Mash* available via their www.pappyscomedy.com website.

Central Youth Theatre is hosting its third Hilarity Charity Gala at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre on Monday when a host of comedians, many familiar from top TV shows, present a rib-tickling night to raise money for the theatre group.

The line-up includes Birmingham stand-up Joe Lycett from 8 out of 10 Cats, Live at the Apollo, Never Mind the Buzzcocks and Celebrity Juice. Joe is a former Chortle Student Comedian of the Year and has been a guest for Scott Mills, Greg James and



Home gig in Wolverhampton for Pappy's comedy group as part of the Hilarity Gala

Nick Grimshaw on BBC Radio 1 and one of Radio 4's Just A Minute panel.

Also performing will be Adam Riches from *Horrible Histories* and *The Detectives*; Nish Kumar from *Have I Got News For You* and Russell Howard's *Stand Up Central*; Spencer Jones of sit-com *Upstart Crow*; Ivo Graham of BBC Radio 5 Live's *Fighting Talk* and ITV's *Elevenish*; and the evening will again be compered by Perrier award winner Daniel Kitson.

This year's gala is aiming to raise funds for the group's move into a new home in the former Co-Operative building opposite the Grand in Lichfield Street. Tickets are priced £17.50 and £22.50. Call 01902 429212.



Clare and all that jazz

AWARD-WINNING jazz singer, Radio 2 presenter and former Wolverhampton student Clare Teal will be accompanied by her 16-piece Hollywood Orchestra, led by top arranger and trumpeter Guy Barker, in concert at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre on Sunday.

The UK's Queen of Swing will present *Twelve O'Clock Tales*, based around her latest album, because she says every song has a tale to tell, and as the midnight hour falls so do barriers to innermost thoughts and desires.

Her repertoire will include classics from the Great American and British Songbooks with music from Cole Porter, Billy Strayhorn, Rodgers and Hammerstein to Tim Rice and Sting.

Clare became a familiar voice on radio as presenter of BBC Radio 2's Big Band Special. The Skipton lass discovered jazz via her grandmother's record collection and studied music at Wolverhampton Polytechnic (now university) before entering show business singing jingles. She has been associated with Big Band Special for 12 years.

Talking about her new album *Twelve O'Clock Tales*, which features the prestigious Hallé Orchestra, Clare said: "This is our most ambitious project to date and being accompanied by the Hallé is an absolute privilege. To be in a room surrounded by 93 incredibly talented musicians wondrously lifting these stunning arrangements right off the page before your eyes makes for a great day out - to actually then add your own voice to the story is a dream come true."

"We're thrilled to be releasing *Twelve O'Clock Tales* on our own label. It's truly liberating to be in control of what you want to record."

Tickets for Sunday's Grand concert range from £18 to £28. See www.grandtheatre.co.uk or call 01902 429212.

One night only in concert line-up

THERE is a star-studded line-up for a series of one night concerts at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre (also see above).

Tonight (Thursday) the nation's Nancy, Oliver! star Jodie Prenger, is searching for romance in New York in Andrew Lloyd Webber and Don Black's *Tell Me On A Sunday*. *Soul Legends* on Friday features guest George 'Rock Your Baby' McCrae then 'People's Tenor' Russell Watson is in concert on Saturday. Clive John conjures 'the Man in Black' in the Johnny Cash Roadshow on Tuesday. Comedian Stu Francis, singer Maggie O'Hara and Steve Barclay as Max Miller are in Music Hall Memories on Wednesday.

Opera celebrates with Cav and Pag

WELSH National Opera is making a return visit to Birmingham Hippodrome to celebrate its 70th birthday with the classics *Cavalleria rusticana* and *Pagliacci*.

The double bill of Cav & Pag, sung in Italian with English surtitles, will be at the Hippodrome on Thursday and Saturday, June 9 and 11. Each opera packs lots of drama and powerful music into just over an hour.

On Friday, June 10, WNO perform *In Parenthesis*, British composer Iain Bell's adaptation of the epic poem by David Jones about First World War soldiers who enter a magical wood amid the horrors of the Somme.

Singer Corinne's creative rebirth

CORINNE Bailey Rae was worried about not bringing out a record in six years. "I think you have to remind fans of who you are, no matter the length of gap," she says. "But I do feel really lucky the people who follow my music have kept in touch. I feel like there's still a good connection there."

Sophisticated new record *The Heart Speaks In Whispers* charts Bailey Rae's creative and personal rebirth following the death in 2008 of her husband, saxophonist Jason Rae.

She plays Birmingham Barclaycard Arena on July 7 as support to Lionel Richie before V Festival in August.

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CHOICE



Griff Rhys Jones

All New It'll Be Alright on the Night (ITV, 9pm)

Griff Rhys Jones returns to showcase another selection of hilarious film and TV outtakes rescued from the cutting-room. Among the stars whose gaffes are highlighted in this edition are Elton John, David Beckham and Ricky Gervais, and fumbled takes from the sets of Coronation Street, Mr Selfridge and EastEnders also make an appearance. Plus, mistakes from The One Show demonstrate the perils of live TV, and Jeremy Kyle has a painful encounter with a stray camera.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. 11.30 Mary Berry Cooks. (R) 12.00 BBC News; Weather. 12.10 Athletics. 12.40 Athletics: Diamond League Rome Highlights. 1.40 Boxing: Women's World Championships. 2.40 Flog It! (R) 3.35 Escape to the Country. (R) 4.20 Film: Madagascar. (2005) Animated comedy, with the voice of Ben Stiller. 5.40 Can't Touch This. 6.30 BBC News. 6.40 Regional Programme. 6.50 Pointless Celebrities. Alexander Armstrong and Richard Osman present a star-studded version of the general knowledge quiz. 7.40 The National Lottery: In It to Win It. Quiz show in which five contestants answer questions to scoop a big cash prize. Plus, Ore Oduba presents the all-important Lotto and Thunderball draws. 8.30 The Musketeers. Paris is on the brink of starvation, prompting Grimaud and Feron to join forces with the Duke of Beaufort to win the King's business. However, to further their scheme, they must first frame the city's refugees for stealing much sought-after grain. As the conspirators' scapegoats are locked up in the Châtelet to await execution, D'Artagnan's hot temper also lands him a cell, and with one of their own now behind bars, the Musketeers race to secure the release of those who have been wrongly imprisoned. Meanwhile, spirited refugee Sylvie catches Athos' eye, vowing to prove her friends' innocence, but is he wise to trust her? 9.25 Casualty. Eile is pressed into a corner by Hansen, who wants to know who has been stealing drugs. After a shocking discovery, she is forced to choose between the good of the department and the people in it. Robyn and David's morality tale proves a success. Rita pushes lain away until a threatening incident makes her seek his help, and Cal urges lain to try flirting with a patient, but his efforts go disastrously wrong. 10.25 BBC News; Weather; National Lottery Update. 10.45 Film: Die Hard with a Vengeance. (1995) Action thriller sequel, with Bruce Willis. 12.45 Film: The Children. (2008) 2.05 Weather for the Week Ahead. 2.10 BBC News.

BBC2

6.10 Film: Finishing School. (1934) 7.20 Film: Hue and Cry. (1947) 8.40 Film: The Island at the Top of the World. (1974) 10.10 Homes Under the Hammer. (R) 11.10 Natural World. (R) 12.00 The Hair Bikers: Everyday Gourmets. (R) 1.00 Tom Kerridge's Proper Pub Food. (R) 1.30 Film: Pal Joey. (1957) Musical comedy, starring Frank Sinatra. 3.20 The Great British Sewing Bee. (R) 4.20 This Week's World. 5.00 UEFA Euro 2017 Qualifier, England v Serbia (Kick-off 5.00pm). 7.30 Gardeners' World. Monty Don reports on progress in his cutting garden and, now that plants are growing apace, gets on with seasonal maintenance tasks in the jewel garden. Frances Tophill continues her vegetable trials at RHS Rosemoor in Devon, when she plants out her allotment with the help of volunteers. Plus, a visit to Bodnant Garden in north Wales to find out how its volunteers are guiding visitors through the world famous Laburnum Arc. (R) 8.00 Dad's Army. The platoon takes part in an efficiency test in a bid to prove its worth, but mistakenly attacks a tea lady with onions from Jones's van. Guest starring Fulton Mackay. (R) 8.30 Film: Alice in Wonderland. (2010) A 19-year-old Alice returns to the magical land, having forgotten her previous adventures. She finds the tyrannical Red Queen has begun a reign of terror that can only be ended by slaying the monstrous Jabberwocky - a task she is seemingly destined to attempt. Tim Burton's fantasy adventure based on Lewis Carroll's novels, starring Mia Wasikowska, Johnny Depp, Helena Bonham Carter and Anne Hathaway. 10.10 QI XL. Extended edition. The Rev Richard Cole, Sara Pascoe, Bill Bailey and Alan Davies try to answer host Stephen Fry's questions on L-themed larks - a "Liltable", as he calls it. 10.55 Versailles. Period drama depicting the decadent and turbulent early reign of Louis XIV. In the first edition, the young monarch seeks to assert his authority. George Blagden stars; (R) Inside Versailles. 11.55 Film: You Will Be My Son. (2011) Drama, with Nils Arestup. 1.35 Film: Quatermass 2. (1957) 2.55 This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: The Aquabats! Super Show! 6.20 Pat & Stan. (R) 6.30 Dino Dan. (R) 6.45 Dino Dan. (R) 6.55 Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) 7.00 Sooty. (R) 7.15 Super 4. (R) 7.30 Nerds & Monsters. (R) 7.45 The Tom & Jerry Show. (R) 8.00 Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) 8.25 ITV News. 8.30 Weekend. 9.25 Murder, She Wrote. (R) 10.25 Murder, She Wrote. (R) 11.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. 12.20 ITV News; Weather. 12.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 1.30 Live French Open Tennis. 6.00 Regional Programme; Weather. 6.15 ITV News; Weather. 6.30 You've Been Framed! Harry Hill narrates a comical selection of mishaps filmed by viewers, featuring everything from cute kids and crazy animals to pranks and painful-looking accidents. (R) 7.00 Bang on the Money. Rickie Haywood-Williams and Melvin Odomoo host the final edition of the high-precision game show. This time, "The Arc Angels" from Northampton take on Mr England, Mr Birmingham and Miss Basingstoke, known collectively as "The Pageant People". The two teams battle it out to hit a specific target number "bang on" in a series of physical and mental challenges, and at the end of the contest, the most successful group could win up to £40,000. Last in the series. 8.00 You Saw Them Here First. The TV debuts of some of Britain's best-known faces. 9.00 All New It'll Be Alright on the Night. Griff Rhys Jones introduces more TV and film outtakes, including gaffes by Elton John, David Beckham and Ricky Gervais, and fumbled takes from Coronation Street and EastEnders. 10.00 ITV News; Weather. 10.20 Secrets of Growing Old. Documentary unravelling the secrets of ageing, including the changing attitudes to "growing old", with examples of people who defy preconceptions of what it means to be "old". (R) 11.20 Film: Carry On Cleo. (1964) A captured Briton is mistaken for a heroic swordsman and given the job of protecting Julius Caesar from assassins. Comedy, with Amanda Barrie. 1.00 Jackpot247. 3.00 Murder, She Wrote. (R) 3.50 ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.15 The King of Queens. (R) 6.40 Transylvania Ultramarathon. 7.10 Motor Sport: British GT. 7.35 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.00 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.30 Derby Day Morning Line. 10.00 Frasier. (R) 10.30 Frasier. (R) 11.00 The Superhumans Show. 11.30 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 12.00 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 12.25 The Simpsons. (R) 12.55 The Simpsons. (R) 1.30 The Derby: Channel 4 Racing from Epsom, including the feature race at 4.30. 5.00 A Place in the Sun: Summer Sun. 6.00 Homes by the Med. Charlie Luxton returns to Spain to explore the Costa del Sol, one of the most-visited sections of the Andalusian coastline. While there, he meets a couple who have built an extraordinary modern home that is designed like a cruise ship, but on dry land. Previously seen on More4. 7.00 Channel 4 News. 7.15 The Restoration Man. Architect George Clarke helps restoration novices Marco and Kath Walker, who have bought a pair of 17th and 18th-century cow barns in Wellington, Herefordshire. (R) 8.00 Grand Designs. Kevin McCloud follows the progress of Stephen Yeoman and Anita Findley, who want to build a cutting-edge, post-industrial house covered in rusty metal. However, their prominent riverside plot in the traditional and architecturally conservative area of South Downs means everyone will be watching. The project proves to be a real rollercoaster when the fitting of the rusty steel cladding goes wrong, cash flow problems threaten to bring work to a halt, and the couple announce that a baby is on the way. (R) 9.00 Film: 12 Years a Slave. (2013) Premiere. A free black man living in pre-Civil War New York is abducted and sold into slavery. He spends the next 12 years struggling to survive and maintain his dignity in the face of brutal treatment, while clinging to a desperate hope that he can return to his family. Oscar-winning historical drama based on Solomon Northup's autobiographical book, starring Chiwetel Ejiofor. 11.45 Film: Colombiana. (2011) 1.40 Hollyoaks. (R) 3.50 Posh Pawnbrokers. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! 8.55 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) 9.30 The Saturday Show Live. 11.30 Police Interceptors. (R) 12.30 Police Interceptors. (R) 1.30 Police Interceptors. (R) 2.25 Police Interceptors. (R) 3.25 Police Interceptors. (R) 4.25 Police Interceptors: Fast & Furious. (R) 5.25 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R) 6.25 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. High court enforcement officers Paul Bohill and Steve Pinner evict a couple who owe five months' rent on a flat in an affluent suburb of London, and later hit a snag when they try to seize a taxi over a £3,000 debt. In Bristol, county court bailiff Steve Wood finds out that unpaid rent is not the only problem when he attempts to repossess a corner shop. (R) 7.25 Can't Pay Special: Big Family Bust Up. One-off edition in which the High Court enforcement agents are caught in the crossfire of a bitter family dispute, including a debt-dodging man who pushes his panic-stricken mother over the edge. Plus, a family booted onto the streets at night by a ruthless aunt, and a man who won't engage with the agents and loses his car. (R) 8.20 5 News Weekend. 8.30 NCIS. The team suspects Gibbs's arch-nemesis is behind an explosion at a summit on global terror. Meanwhile, a grief-stricken Fornell struggles to deal with the fatal shooting of his ex-wife. American drama, starring Mark Harmon, David McCallum, Pauley Perrette and Joe Spano. 9.25 NCIS. A covert identity created for one of Gibbs' undercover cases 20 years previously resurfaces after a murder victim is found to be using the alias. Meanwhile, Bishop becomes anxious at the thought of having to work incognito in the future. Starring Mark Harmon and Emily Wickersham. 10.20 NCIS: Los Angeles. A marine is thought to have killed himself after falling to his death from a rooftop bar, but Sam and Callen are brought in to re-evaluate the case after an appeal from his family. (R) 11.15 NCIS: Los Angeles. The team investigates when a woman is shot dead in an apartment. (R) 12.10 SuperCasino. 3.10 GPs: Behind Closed Doors. (R) 4.50 Divine Designs. (R) 5.20 House Doctor. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four 7.00 Francesco's Venice 8.00 D-Day: The Last Heroes 9.00 The Disappearance 10.45 The Richest Songs in the World 12.15 Biggest Band Break Ups and Make Ups 1.15 Top of the Pops: 1981 2.25 The Richest Songs in the World 3.55 Close ITVS 2.10 FYI Daily 2.15 Film: The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas (2000) 3.00 Film: The SpongeBob SquarePants Movie (2004) 4.00 FYI Daily 4.05 Film: The SpongeBob SquarePants Movie (2004) 4.45 Film: Despicable Me (2010) 5.45 FYI Daily 5.50 Film: Despicable Me (2010) 6.40 Film: Miss Congeniality 2: Armed and Fabulous (2005) 7.40 FYI Daily 7.45 Film: Miss Congeniality 2: Armed and Fabulous (2005) 9.00 Love Island: The Weekly Hot List 10.00 Celebrity Juice 10.50 Family Guy 12.15 American Dad! 1.15 The Cleveland Show 2.05 Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records 2.30 Planet's Funniest Animals ITVS 11.20 Hidden Treasure 1.25 Lewis 3.25 Rosemary & Thyme 5.00 Agatha Christie's Marple 7.00 Doc Martin 8.00 Foyle's War 10.00 Colditz 12.00 Bouquet of Barbud Wire 1.05 Northern Lights 2.00 ITV3 Nightscreen 2.30 Teleshopping ITV4 11.00 Cycling: Tour Series Highlights 12.00 TT 2016: Steve and James' TT Road Trip 1.00 TT 2016: Qualifying Highlights 2.00 BBC Formula 3 Highlights 3.00 Counting Cars 3.30 Storage Wars 5.30 British Touring Cars - Crashes and Smashes 5.45 Live French Open Tennis. 7.00 TT 2016: Sidecar Supersports 8.00 TT 2016: Hutzky Miracle Man 9.00 TT 2016: Superbike TT Race 10.00 Film: Road (2014) 11.05 FYI Daily 11.10 Film: Road (2014) 12.15 Film: Fastest (2011) 1.15 FYI Daily 1.20 Film: Fastest (2011) 3.30 Highway Patrol 2.50 ITV4 Nightscreen 3.00 Teleshopping E4 11.30 How I Met Your Mother 12.30 Brooklyn Nine-Nine 1.30 The Big Bang Theory 2.00 Film: (R) (2011) 4.00 The Big Bang Theory 9.00 Film: Predator (1987) 11.05 Gogglebox 1.15 Rude Tube 2.20 The Inbetweeners 3.15 Gogglebox 4.05 Angle Tribeca 4.25 New Girl Film4 11.00 3:10 to Yuma (1957) 1.00 New in Town (2009) 2.50 Rat Race (2001) 5.00 Parental Guidance (2012) 7.05 Vice Versa (1988) 9.00 Watchmen (2009) 2.10 Night of the Creeps (1986) 4.00 Close

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CHOICE



Soccer Aid 2016 (ITV, 6pm)
Coverage of the big game in aid of Unicef, which sees footballing heroes team up with celebrities for an England v Rest of the World match live from Old Trafford. Robbie Williams takes a step back from the pitch this time around, instead choosing to be Jose Mourinho's assistant manager, with help from Sunderland boss Sam Allardyce and coach Bradley Walsh. Their England team features former professionals such as David Seaman, Jamie Carragher and Robbie Fowler, plus stars including Jack Whitehall, Ollie Murs, Paddy McGuinness and John Bishop. Leicester City coach Claudio Ranieri manages the opposing side, which calls upon Ronaldinho, Dimitar Berbatov and other pros, lining up with captain Michael Sheen and a squad featuring Gordon Ramsay and Nicky Byrne.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Regional Programme. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.15** BBC News; Weather. **1.30** Athletics: Birmingham Grand Prix. The Birmingham Grand Prix. **4.30** Celebrity Mastermind. (R) **5.00** Points of View. **5.15** Songs of Praise. **5.50** Pointless Celebrities. (R) **6.35** BBC News. **6.50** Regional Programme. **7.00** Countryfile. Matt Baker and Anita Ran present the show from Scotland's Montrose Basin, an internationally important location for wild fowl. Anita ventures out onto the treacherous mud flats, while Matt visits the site of the UK's first air base, where enthusiasts are building replica First World War biplane. Naomi Wilkinson looks for golden eagles and other wildlife in Glenesh, and Adam Henson meets a dog psychologist. Tom Heap reports on how the result of the EU referendum could affect the British countryside. Including Weather For The Week Ahead. **8.00** Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce and the team return to Chenies Manor, near Amersham in Buckinghamshire, where members of the public bring along treasured antiques and collectibles. A young woman chooses a 21st birthday present from a collection of pocket watches kept in a biscuit tin and a train set that has been in its box for 70 years finally sees the light of day. Fiona reads a letter from a soldier to be opened in the event of his death, the relatives of a glassblower pay a moving tribute to their father's work and the update feature focuses on an ornate French plant stand first seen on the show in 1991. (R) **9.00** Wallander. The detective takes on his most challenging case as he searches for Linda's father-in-law. Last in the series. **10.30** BBC News. **10.50** Regional Programme. **11.00** Duran Duran at Eden. Alex Jones and Patrick Kielty introduce highlights of the band's concert for BBC Music Day from the Eden Project's biomes. **12.00** Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.05** BBC News.

BBC2

6.05 Great British Garden Revival. (R) **7.05** This Farming Life. (R) **8.05** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.35** Countryfile. (R) **9.30** The Beechgrove Garden. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.30** The Hairy Bikers' Asian Adventure. (R) **12.00** Tom Kerridge's Proper Pub Food. (R) **12.30** Film: How the West Was Won. (1962) **3.00** Flog It! (R) **4.00** Gymnastics: Women's European Championships. **6.00** Britain's Ultimate Pilots: Inside the RAF. The Red Arrows continue to have bad luck with the weather. The RAF's fastest jet appears in a display over Bournemouth and the pilots receive some shocking news. Last in the series. (R) **7.00** Dara and Ed's Great Big Adventure. Ed Byrne and Dara O Briain retrace a journey taken by three men from Detroit during the 1940s, embarking on a 4,000-mile pan-American adventure. (R) **8.00** Top Gear. Chris, Matt and Eddie take Shariel Spiteri, Seaisick Steve and Tim Tappin on a SUV test in South Africa, and Damian Lewis is this week's Star in a Rallycross Car. **9.00** City in the Sky. New series. Dallas Campbell and Dr Hannah Fry present a documentary exploring aviation, beginning with a look at the challenges of getting passenger planes into the air. **10.05** Top Gear Extra Gear. New series. Spin-off going behind the scenes on the motoring series. Sabine Schmitz presents a tour of her racing workshop, and comedian Chris Ramsey joins the team in the studio. **10.30** Stupid Man, Smart Phone. Russell Kane turns to his phone for help in climbing the Dolomite Mountains of Italy accompanied by internet star Humza Arshad, who has rarely set foot outside of London. **11.20** Flat TV. Tom is obsessed with his new neighbour and ends up breaking into her home, while Naz invents a new sauce. **11.45** Later - with Jools Holland. Extended edition of the music programme, featuring performances by Tame Impala, Biffy Clyro, Michael Kiwanuka, Moon Hooch, James Blake and Lera Lynn. Last in the series. (R) **12.45** Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **1.40** Holby City. (R) **2.40** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: The Aquabats! Super Show! **6.20** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.30** Dino Dan. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **6.55** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.00** Sooty. (R) **7.15** Super 4. (R) **7.30** Nerds & Monsters. (R) **7.45** The Tom & Jerry Show. (R) **8.00** Teen Titans Go! (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** Griff's Great Britain. (R) **10.00** Peston on Sunday. **11.00** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **11.50** ITV News: Weather. **12.00** Planet's Got Talent. (R) **12.30** Fierce. (R) **1.30** Live French Open Tennis. Coverage of the 15th day's play at Roland Garros, featuring the men's singles final in the second Grand Slam tournament of the year, which was won by Stan Wawrinka last year. **5.45** Regional Programme; Weather. **5.50** ITV News: Weather. **6.00** Soccer Aid 2016. Jose Mourinho and Claudio Ranieri manage the pro-celebrity teams for the charity football match, live from Old Trafford, as England take on the Rest of the World (Kick-off 8.00pm). **10.00** ITV News: Weather. **10.20** Fraud - How They Steal Your ID. Criminals are increasingly procuring bank and credit card details from online customers, which are then freely traded on the so-called 'dark web'. However, as this programme reveals, to succeed in doing this they must first get personal with their targets using a combination of data hacks, spam e-mail and malware - often coupled by posing as inquisitive bank staff via telephone calls. With reference to true-life occurrences, this programme outlines the various techniques used to swindle account holders of their cash. Narrated by Shaun Dooley. (R) **11.20** Tipping Point. Game show, hosted by Ben Shepherd, in which contestants answer questions to win turns on an arcade-style machine. Dropping tokens down a choice of four chutes, they hope to knock piles of them off a moving shelf - and the more they collect, the greater the prize fund. The player who has won the least amount is then eliminated, and the last one standing competes for a £10,000 jackpot. (R) **12.20** Jackpot247. Interactive gaming. **3.00** Motorsport UK. Action from Donington Park. **3.50** ITV Nightscreen. Text-based information service. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.00 Salvage SOS. **6.25** Salvage SOS. **6.50** Salvage SOS. **7.10** The King of Queens. (R) **7.35** The King of Queens. (R) **8.00** Frasier. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** The Simpsons. (R) **12.55** Film: Step Up 3. (2010) Dance drama sequel, starring Rick Malambri. **3.05** Location, Location, Location. (R) **4.05** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. **5.05** Film: The Jungle Book. (1967) Disney animated adventure, with the voice of Phil Harris. **6.35** Channel 4 News. **7.00** Escape to the Chateau. New series: Series following a British family that buys a French chateau over the course of a year, as they restore the building after 40 years of standing empty. Dick Strawbridge and his partner Angel Adoree's new home has 12 acres of land, nine outbuildings, a walled garden and a moat - but it also has no electricity, heating or water, and proves to be a far more complicated DIY project than expected. **8.00** Penelope Keith at Her Majesty's Service. New series. The actress travels around the country to visit the Queen's official residences and meet people with royal appointments. The journey begins in Windsor Castle, where she finds out about Britain's oldest order of chivalry, meets the Royal Herb Strewer and unearths a box of treasure dating back to Elizabeth I. She also takes a trip up the Thames in the gilded barge Gloriana. **9.00** Film: About Time. (2013) Premiere. A single man gets the chance to turn his unhappy life around when his father reveals that they both have the ability to travel through time and change their personal history. He uses his newfound talent to try to improve his love life and win the heart of an American woman he has fallen for. Romantic fantasy comedy, with Domhnall Gleeson, Rachel McAdams and Bill Nighy. **11.25** Film: Bad Teacher. (2011) A cynical, hard-drinking teacher hopes to seduce a wealthy substitute, making an enemy of a squeaky-clean colleague in the process. Comedy, with Cameron Diaz and Justin Timberlake. **1.10** Million Pound Properties. (R) **2.05** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.30** Win It Cook It. **5.00** The Restoration Man. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Toby's Travelling Circus. (R) **6.15** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.30** Bob the Builder. (R) **6.40** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **6.50** Zack and Quack. (R) **7.05** Pets. **7.10** Noddy in Toyland. (R) **7.20** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.35** Little Princess. (R) **7.50** Pip Ahoy! (R) **8.05** Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) **8.30** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.45** Shimmer and Shine. **9.15** Jelly Jam. (R) **9.30** Lazy Town. (R) **9.55** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.30** Funniest Fails: Fails & Flops. (R) **11.00** Now That's Funny! (R) **12.00** Film: See No Evil, Hear No Evil. (1989) Comedy, starring Richard Pryor and Gene Wilder. **1.50** Film: Spies Like Us. (1985) Comedy, starring Chevy Chase and Dan Aykroyd. **3.45** Film: Wayne's World. (1992) Comedy, starring Mike Myers and Dana Carvey. **5.35** 5 News Weekend. **5.40** Film: Six Days Seven Nights. (1998) A bickering journalist and pilot are stranded on a desert island, and face a series of dangers as they struggle to survive. Romantic adventure, with Harrison Ford and Anne Heche. Edited for language, nudity and sexual content. **7.40** Film: PS I Love You. (2007) Widowed Holly feels she cannot cope following the death of her husband. However, on her birthday, she receives a letter he wrote to her just before he died, encouraging her to live life to the full rather than languish in sorrow. This is just the first in a series of messages, each one sending her on wild misadventures and helping her to move on. Romantic drama based on Cecelia Ahern's novel, starring Hilary Swank, Gerard Butler and Lisa Kudrow. **10.00** Most Shocking Celebrity Moments 2015. Countdown of the biggest showbusiness stories and scandals of 2015, including Bruce Jenner's transition to Caitlyn and the Top Gear bust-up involving Jeremy Clarkson. (R) **11.55** SuperCasino. Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and live chat from the presenting team. **3.10** Inside the Murder Prison. Journalist Paul Connolly revisits footage from his investigations into some of the most intimidating prisons in the world. **4.40** Shops & Robbers: Caught on Camera. Nick Wallis meets a seasoned CCTV operator in Stafford, who catches a drug user after spotting him on camera. Plus, a control room operative looking out for shoplifters in Woking. (R) **4.50** Nick's Quest. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 Good Swan. Bad Swan: Dancing Swan Lake. **8.00** Perfect Pianists at the BBC. **9.00** Secret Voices of Hollywood. **10.30** Film: Storyville: Blackfish - The Whale that Killed (2013) **11.50** Natural World Special: Miracle in the Marshes of Iraq **12.50** Stonehenge: A Timewatch Guide **1.50** Andrew Marr on Churchill: Blood, Sweat and Oil Paint **2.50** Good Swan. Bad Swan: Dancing Swan Lake **3.50** Close **ITV2**
11.25 Take Me Out **12.35** Love Island **1.05** Film: Beethoven (1992) **2.05** FYI Daily **2.10** Film: Beethoven (1992) **2.50** Film: A Cinderella Story (2004) **3.50** FYI Daily **3.55** Film: A Cinderella Story (2004) **4.45** Film: Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang (2010) **5.45** FYI Daily **5.50** Film: Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang (2010) **6.55** Film: The Wedding Planner (2001) **7.55** FYI Daily **8.00** Film: The Wedding Planner (2001) **9.00** Love Island **10.00** Family Guy **11.00** American Dad! **12.00** The Cleveland Show **1.00** Film: Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang (2010) **1.55** Film: The Funniest Animals **2.20** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen **ITV3**
12.00 Film: Columbo: Forgotten Lady (1975) **2.00** Lewis **6.00** Midsomer Murders **10.05** Film: The Constant Gardener (2005) **11.05** FYI Daily **11.10** Film: The Constant Gardener (2005) **12.40** Secret Smile **2.00** Blue Murder **2.50** May the Best House Win **4.30** On the Buses **5.30** Judge Judy **5.50** ITV3 Nightscreen **ITV4**
11.15 Live British Touring Car Championship **5.40** Live French Open Tennis **8.00** Cycling: Critérium du Dauphine **9.00** TT 2016: Sidecar TT Race **1.10** Life on the Limit **11.15** FYI Daily **11.15** Life on the Limit **12.15** TT 2016: Sidecar TT Race **1.15** Hell on Wheels **2.15** Tommy Cooper **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping **E4**
1.30 The Big Bang Theory **6.30** Film: Twilight (2008) **9.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **10.00** Tattoo Fixers **11.00** The Inbetweeners **12.10** Gogglebox **2.15** The 100 **3.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **Film4**
1.00 Magic in the Water (1995) **3.05** That Dam Cat (1997) **4.50** Adams Family Values (1993) **6.35** Mission: Impossible 2 (2000) **9.00** The American (2010) **11.05** Under Siege 2: Dark Territory (1995) **1.10** The Wind Rises (2013) **3.45** Close

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY

Fatal Fiance, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A woman joins forces with a reporter to clear the name of her fiancé, who has become the prime suspect in a murder case. However, not everything is as it seems. Thriller, starring Jenny Wade, Jordi Vilasuso and Taylor Cole. (2016)

TUESDAY

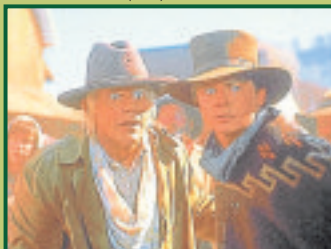
Columbo: Double Exposure, ITV, 11.55pm

A maker of motivational films based on subliminal messages uses his expertise to plant a subconscious command in the mind of a rival to lure him to his death. However, any hopes of his getting away with it are dashed by the arrival of a certain shabby sleuth. Crime drama, starring Peter Falk, Robert Culp, Robert Middleton, Louise Latham and Arlene Martel. (1973)

WEDNESDAY

Bond of Silence, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A woman searches for answers after her husband is mysteriously murdered while trying to subdue a wild teenage house party on New Year's Eve. However, as she tries to find out the truth, she faces secrecy at every turn from the party-goers and their parents. Drama, starring Kim Raver, Greg Grunberg and Charlie McDermott. (2010)



Back to the Future Part III, Friday, ITV, 11pm

THURSDAY

Taken Back: Finding Haley, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A woman whose daughter goes missing spends years obsessing over finding her. She meets a girl who she becomes convinced is her child, and tries to prove that her parents are in fact kidnappers. However, when she cannot find any evidence, she resorts to an abduction of her own. Thriller, starring Moira Kelly and Amanda Tapping. (2012)

FRIDAY

Back to the Future Part III, ITV, 11pm

Time-travelling teenager Marty McFly is transported back to the days of the Wild West, where he strives to save his eccentric scientist friend Doc Brown from death at the hands of a villainous gunslinger. Final instalment in the sci-fi comedy trilogy, starring Michael J Fox, Christopher Lloyd, Mary Steenburgen and Thomas F Wilson. (1990)

The home nation will hope to be on the ball

It's finally time for the big kick-off, as it is customary the host nation gets proceedings under way tonight at the Stade de France.

If you thought that the pressure was high on this side of the Channel, spare a thought for Didier Deschamps French side who go into the tournament as favourites and with the hopes of an expectant nation on their shoulders.

The signs look good though – over the years, the hosts tend to perform well at the Euros, and the French have been victorious in each of the last two major tournaments that they have hosted, winning the European Championships back in 1984 and the World Cup in 1998.

Their current side is strong defensively, formidable in midfield with Paul Pogba, and rifle with speedy attacking options.

The one thing they are perhaps missing is a true No.9, as Karim Benzema is suspended from international play.

One of France's greatest ever players, Thierry Henry, is confident

that the hosts will be at the national stadium in Paris when the winner is decided in exactly one month's time.

He told Sky Sports: "This is the big one for us. This is the big one for Deschamps and the big one for the team.

"We all know it is not easy to win a tournament at home, but we have done it twice. "We have won the Euros in 1984 and the World Cup in 1998 so we have a history of usually winning it when we have the tournament at home.

"France has a good team. The only thing I will say is we haven't played an official game for a long time, so that might be the question mark about the team at the moment.

"I think we have a great team and I'm not saying that because I am French, but I do think they have one of the best teams in Europe.

"I'll tip them to win and I hope they will."

First up for Les Bleus, who also triumphed at Euro 2000 in the Netherlands and Belgium, are Group A rivals Romania.

The Tricolori were defensively the best team in qualifying, conceding just two goals, but they were also the least prolific team that qualified, scoring just 11, so the French may have their work cut out breaking down their opponents this evening.

The tournament itself has been expanded to 24 teams this year, with matches taking place in 10 different host cities.

As far as the TV coverage goes, the BBC and ITV have split it down the middle once again.

Mark Pougatch has proven to be good replacement for previous ITV anchor Adrian Chiles, and the broadcaster has gone all out with its French theme for the Euros.

Promotional work has been done by Eric Cantona, while Emmanuel Petit, Christian Karembeu and Louis Saha have all joined the punditry team.

Ian Wright is also on the team, along with West Ham boss Slaven Bilic.

There is also a return to commentary on ITV for Andy Townsend after a year-long absence.



France take on Romania in Euro 2016, Friday, ITV, 7.15pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY

Reg

BBC1, 9pm

Jimmy McGovern is the writer who brought us the powerful dramas Hillsborough and Sunday, which was based on the events of Bloody Sunday. Now, he's tackling another real-life story, that of Reg Keys (Tim Roth), who in 2003 received the devastating news that his son Tom had been killed in Iraq. As his wife Sally (Anna Maxwell Martin) struggles with her grief, Reg tries to make sense of what has happened, and discovers that three weeks prior to Tom's death, the army had ordered a scale-down in weapons and communications. Convinced this was a mistake on the military's part, Reg makes the decision to stand as an independent candidate in opposition to the Iraq War in the next General Election – and he's going to do it in the constituency of Sedgefield, where he will be running against Prime Minister Tony Blair.

TUESDAY

Big Brother: Live Launch

Channel 5, 9pm

Emma Willis ushers in another diverse group of fame-seeking individuals who have been chosen to spend their summer invading the nation's living rooms. This year, the house has been made over

into a stark monochrome world. However, while everything may appear black and white, the new residents will not be alone – they will be under attack from a dark, unseen force designed to have a divisive effect on the entire housemates as they fall victim to paranoia and suspicion.

WEDNESDAY

Power Monkeys

Channel 4, 10pm

New series. Spin-off from the highly acclaimed comedy series Ballot Monkeys, following both sides of the EU referendum, along with prominent international politicians on Donald Trump's campaign plane and inside Vladimir Putin's Presidential office. Creators Andy Hamilton and Guy Jenkin highlight the follies and foibles of contemporary politics, writing much of the show in the hours leading up to transmission.

THURSDAY

DIY SOS: The Big Build

BBC1, 8pm

Let's face it, this occasional series holds her surprises these days. Each edition is basically the

same – a family struggling to cope in difficult circumstances has their living environment (and possibly their very existence) transformed by Nick Knowles and his team of property experts, with help from the local community. Despite this lack of diversity, viewers always end up shedding buckets of tears at the end – and it's this emotional impact that keeps us coming back for more. In recent months, there have been variations on the theme, with Princes William and Harry getting involved in creating new homes for war veterans, but we're expecting this edition to play out as usual. So, don't forget those handkerchiefs!



Big Brother: Live Launch, Tuesday, Channel 5, 9pm

New Blood

BBC1, 9pm

Anthony Horowitz's writing career has been one of mostly outstanding success, so when it was revealed that he was penning a new seven-part drama for the BBC, critics and fans alike couldn't wait to

see the results. The creator of Alex Rider and Foyle's War tells the story of trainee detective Rash Sayyad and Stefan Kowolski, a junior case worker at the Serious Fraud Office. They are thrown together by the discovery of the corpse of Mark Henson, one of a group of medical guinea pigs, and an investigation into David Leese.

FRIDAY

The Millionaire's Holiday Club

BBC2, 9pm

Imagine going on holiday to some of the most exclusive destinations money can buy? This two-part documentary goes away with millionaire clients on made-to-measure holidays and takes a behind-the-scenes at a luxury travel agents and their extraordinary efforts to try and provide seven-star holidays. We meet party girl Jane, who since selling her business 12 years ago, has decided to spend the rest of her days on holiday with partner Michael. The couple went on 12 in 2015, and begin this year with a sumptuous Christmas cruise around the Caribbean. Mervyn and Heather, on the other hand, just want a quiet life. Working all year on their Somerset fruit farm, they dream of 10 precious days away sitting on the beach and doing nothing during a stay at one of the most prestigious hotels in Jamaica. But this year is different.

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Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.

Grid for Codeword puzzle with numbers and some letters filled in.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION: W E H A C P J L S U M K I Z G Y X O B I T F R V Q D N

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues: Across 3. A very plain standard (9) 8. A never-to-be-repeated occasion (4) 9. Telling job for shopkeepers (9) 10. Ambled into a madhouse (6) 11. Yet people may sit in one (5) 14. Decoys, breaking the rules (5) 15. When it falls, it has the cheek to go on (4) 16. Gives out but sends the money right away (5) 18. Eats some biscuits upstairs (4) 20. They're used to make a stool (5) 21. Sprinkle water on a small bouquet (5) 24. Mounting a revolt? (6) 25. Usually it's the best of the entries (5,4) 26. Spare list (4) 27. Dancer all bare in confusion! (9) Down 1. It's certain one shouldn't be so sceptical (9) 2. Sharp falls in sweet production? (4,5) 4. It's about time for a bit of news (4) 5. Take only what is right? (5) 6. It might be a latent gift (6) 7. Capital punishment? (4) 9. Breed fish, we hear (5) 11. I'm sly, perhaps, and slippery (5) 12. Put down and bore witness about it (9) 13. They impressed a new-spacer company (5,4) 17. It has to be negotiated in flight (5) 19. This column backs one up (6) 22. It counts as a hazard for rambles (5) 23. It could be for a Malaysian vessel (4) 24. The horse ran round the ring (4)

Grid for Double Crossword puzzle.

Quick Clues: Across 3. Make sure (9) 8. Harvest (4) 9. Happy (9) 10. Inexperienced (6) 11. Concise (5) 14. Scholar (5) 15. Speed (4) 16. Killed (5) 18. Grain (4) 20. Attack (5) 21. Cold dish (5) 24. Deadly (6) 25. Highly pleased (9) 26. Stronghold (4) 27. Female tutor (9) Down 1. Steep cliff (9) 2. Compasses (9) 4. Dull (4) 5. Come in (5) 6. Fond (6) 7. Thought (4) 9. Winds in rings (5) 11. Trade-mark (5) 12. A lie (9) 13. To air (9) 17. Eminent (5) 19. Indigenous (6) 22. Pale (5) 23. Roman emperor (4) 24. Minus (4)

Sudoku

Grid for Sudoku puzzle.

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Sash; 3 Reverend; 8 Peal; 9 Cherring; 11 Have a flutter; 13 Reside; 14 Wraith; 17 Man of letters; 20 Emphasis; 21 Calm; 22 Steadies; 23 Stun. Down: 1 Sapphire; 2 Starves; 4 Exhale; 5 Electorate; 6 Elter; 7 Dogs; 10 Hand-to-hand; 12 Chessman; 15 Inexact; 16 Plaster; 18 Apple; 19 Peas. QUICK - Across: 1 Clap; 3 Reliable; 8 Note; 9 Graduate; 11 Incandescent; 13 Credit; 14 Stupor; 17 Affective; 20 Eviction; 21 Mere; 22 Tutelage; 23 Busy. Down: 1 Convince; 2 Article; 4 Earnest; 5 Indication; 6 Brawn; 7 Even; 10 Incidental; 12 Greenery; 15 Plateau; 16 Strong; 18 Feint; 19 Feat.

Thinking space

Large empty space for thinking.

Quiz

- 1. Of what is Ikebana the Japanese art?
- 2. Who won his third European 100m title in Helsinki in 1994?
- 3. To whom did Hampton Court Palace belong before Henry VIII moved in?
- 4. On which Greek island is St John said to have written the NT Book of Revelation?
- 5. Who wrote the novel Jane Eyre?
- 6. From which country did Algeria declare independence in 1962?
- 7. Of which metal is magnetite an ore?
- 8. Of what is there a special (1905) and a general (1915) theory?
- 9. What type of animal is a chinchilla?
- 10. Of what nationality was the philosopher Spinoza?

Last week's solutions: Quiz: 1 Zambia; 2 Ralph Vaughan Williams; 3 Ben Macdui; 4 A fish; 5 Rob Roy; 6 Golf; 7 St Andrew; 8 Leprosy; 9 A dog; 10 Great Britain. Niner: LEGIONARY

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters. 324569 gives a clergyman, 85196 gives a manservant, 67194 gives a craftsman.

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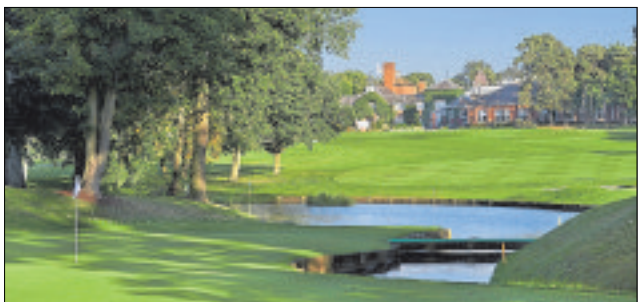
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AS a novice golfer I can't pretend that I did not feel humbled as we made our way up the sweeping driveway to the famous Belfry Hotel & Resort.

With championship golf courses and several tourist awards I knew we were in for a treat.

With just a few golf lessons under my belt – so no Rory McIlroy – I was way out of my depth. But there was no way I was going to miss the chance to say that I had actually played at the Belfry. Of course it is not just golf that would attract you to this superb hotel at Wishaw, Sutton Coldfield, its tourism awards are well earned.

Do not be intimidated by its name and reputation, grand as it is, it has a knack of making you feel right at home. My husband and I arrived one Friday afternoon and after looking around realised just how much this holiday resort has to offer.

Of course there is the world-famous golf –

Sue Attwater tees off

more of that later – but there is so much more to attract the whole family. There are no shortage of activities and places to eat for the young ones and a nightclub across the drive for the slightly older ones. For the woman in your life – and the sport is becoming more popular with the fairer sex – there is also the spa.

You must treat yourself to a champagne tea, the ultimate in luxury. Our charming waiter James supplied us with a wonderful tiered stand full of sandwiches and cakes – it was like being at the Ritz.

We were saving the golf until the following morning so on the Friday we headed for the relaxing spa with the Fire and Ice Experience – 90 minutes of sheer bliss and if you are brave enough the ice cold bucket experience. He did, I didn't and I was quite glad after seeing the shocked look on his face.

Totally relaxed, we sat on the balcony and watched as the more experienced golfers

tackle the 18th hole on the PGA course. It was easy to relax in the sumptuous room – the lady on reception said we would go 'wow' when we saw it and she was not wrong. The bedroom area was huge with a large en suite and dressing area and adjoining living room. Then, to step out onto the huge veranda with the lovely views – this is the life!

Nightclub

Time to settle there with a glass of wine and watch the others tackle the course and maybe get some tips for the morning. Relaxed and changed we headed off to the Ryder Grill restaurant for a delicious a la carte meal and I could forget the calories as I would work them off on the course the next morning.

Afterwards, if you fancy strutting your stuff, just pop across to the very popular Bel Air Nightclub & Lounge. Entrance is included in many weekend packages. Then after breakfast that was it – what I was waiting for. We headed out to the Derby golf course, the only one of the three where you don't need to have

a handicap. As I explained when booking my only handicap was that I couldn't play!

There is also a driving range if you want to try out your skills first. For the little ones there is a small course that replicates some of the famous holes – like the one at Kiawah Island from the 1991 Ryder Cup.

The site has three full courses: The Brabazon, Ryder Cup in 1985, 1989, 1993 and 2002, PGA National, another for experienced players only and the third course The Derby the one we played.

It is available to all standards of players and is roughly 1,000 yards shorter than the other two. Even so, the full 18 holes are a big test of skills and stamina but we did both manage a par on one of the holes. I have not stopped raving about it since!

The Belfry has been nominated for three awards at the World Travel Awards 2016, having been crowned as England's Leading Resort last year. So if you are looking to get away with the family you can't go wrong.

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FEMALE, 67, young looking widow, 5ft2, green eyes, likes meals out, holidays, reading, WLTm gentleman of similar age, or older. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422393

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REBECCA tall slim elegant long legged romantic, sensual, professional, lots to offer, seeks similar male who also appreciates the finer things in life. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421583

SUE, 39, slim feminine brunette, caring, fun loving, independent, no ties, OHAC, loves cooking, WLTm willing male to get to know and spend quality times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421617

DONNA 42yrs young separated female who is ready to start dating again, bubbly, attractive, blonde and raring to get going, come on don't keep me waiting! Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421567

SARA, 39, homeowner, likes animals, tattoos and texting, looking for friendship hopefully leading to more. Get in touch! Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421455

TINA, 43, young looking attractive single female looking for love, with similar lonely heart resorting to advertising in the hope of finding love. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421613

MANDY, 45, friendly outgoing arty female who loves wine/reading, looking for male to sweep me off my feet, take me out and make me feel special, reciprocation guaranteed. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421503

SALLY 37 blonde, blue eyed, who loves life, music, letting my hair down, looking for similar thirty guy for enjoy TLC and life. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421451

JESSICA 39, attractive fit/healthy blonde female enjoys travel, music, the Arts, gym, the good things in life, seeking love, laughter, LTR with similar male, 40-55yrs. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421563

HI I am Lorna 39yr old slim female, 5ft 5ins, many interests, loves music, seeking romantic male to enjoy special times together, hopefully leading to true love. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421413

JAYNE, 42, very pretty brunette, stylish, fun, loves the 60's, fine wine/restaurants, seeks professional gent for mutual life enhancement. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421311

JO attractive 30's brunette who loves life, WLTm up to it male to enjoy nights in/out, weekends away, fun times and hopefully more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421259

MONICA 35, very attractive, gorgeous curvy figure, WLTm nice male who wants to get to know a genuine black beauty to wine, dine, romance hopefully leading to more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421241

CARING honest female, WLTm genuine guy for LTR in Glouce/Bristol area. Text only Mailbox: 4209465

ANNA, 41, new to single life seeking caring professional male for no strings fun, attention and laughter. Life is so short, lets enjoy it! Call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421127

LOVELY lady inside and out, likes music, art, days out, countryside, poetry, model railways, socialising, DVDs, looking for a kind hearted gent, 52+, with a caring nature and GSOH. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421935

FEMALE, 60s, young looking for my age, likes singing, dancing, meals in and out, theatre, fun to be with. Single would like to meet the same. Text only Mailbox: 5448634

CARING honest female WLTm genuine guy for LTR in Glos/Bristol area. Text mail box only. Text only Mailbox: 4209465

FEMALE seeks male to wine and dine me, and treat me like a lady, aged between 50 and 60. Text only Mailbox: 5444151

BROWN eyed brummie female, smoker, likes music, cinema, meals out, WLTm white male for LTR. Text only Mailbox: 4400186

SHARON 49, med to well built, cuddly, young at heart, happy, easygoing, loves the coast and seaside looking for honest friendly male. Text only Mailbox: 5444189

ROSEMARY early 50s, GSOH, likes meals out, sport, etc, looking to share these things with. N/S. Text only Mailbox: 507890

SUE 40s female who enjoys evenings in/out looking for someone to have some fun and hopefully get close to, go on, give me a ring. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421809

REBECCA tall slim elegant long legged romantic, sensual, professional, lots to offer, seeks similar male who also appreciates the finer things in life. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421583

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CARING honest female, WLTm genuine guy for LTR in Glouce/Bristol area. Text only Mailbox: 4209465

46YR old Asian lady looking for friendship maybe more with white male 50+ Text only to Mailbox: 540485

TRISH, 45, tall slim young/good looking GSOH, professional, solvent, OHAC, affectionate and loves TLC, WLTm male who also likes to be in a loving relationship. 39-50yrs. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421137

LOUISE 35, loves meals out, WLTm tallish, considerate mature male who is not frightened to express themselves and enjoy life. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421135

ANGELA, 42, green eyed dark haired feminine lady who enjoys walking and keeping fit, seeking lonely kind gentleman for good times and more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421115

HONEST sincere affectionate nurse, 48, OHAC, WLTm child friendly male/single dad for dates, chats, laughter and more. Any age. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421111

Single Men

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JIMBO, friendly fun loving chap, 42yrs, own ending company. Divorced, no kids. Wants a kind caring lady to spoil, any age, single mums welcome. Text Only Box: 4036422

RAMONE, very fit, looking for a like minded lady, any age, for discreet adult fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422479

ATTRACTIVE, mature Asian male, 42, likes music, travel, cooking, seeks attractive female, 30-50 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 358113

ATTRACTIVE Asian male, 42, likes music, travel, seeks attractive, Asian female, 30-45 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 351647

JOE, 46, attractive male, GSOH, home/car owner, well travelled, seeking mature lady for friendship possibly more, all calls answered. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420665

NOTTINGHAM Steve 59, N/S, GSOH, loyal, sincere, likes meals out, cinema, walks, seeks sincere female for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401177

MALE, mid 60s, broadminded, WLTm female for intimate adult fun and pleasure, AKA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422557

MALE, 59, 5ft2, seeks honest, caring lady, 45-60, for friendship/LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422499

ATTRACTIVE male, 57, tall, seeks mature female, 50-75, for close adult fun, any size or status. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422405

DAVE, 65, slim, white male, Birmingham area, easygoing, likes music, country pubs, animals, WLTm petite, easygoing, white female, for LTR friendship/relationship, if this is you get in touch. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422395

SHAUN, 49, 5ft10, brown hair, brown eyes, average looks, GSOH, OHAC, honest, romantic, animal lover, likes country pubs, walks along the canal and countryside, looking for somebody who is down to earth and fun loving. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396440

MATURE Male average build and fit WLTm a lady any status, 45-70, for discreet fun. Text only Mailbox: 5127746

BELIEVE that the more we have the worst off we are, age 55-70, both unattached, LTR, myself, 69. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422379

MIKE, 64, outgoing person, enjoys life, likes sport, cricket, nice meals out, holidays, WLTm someone to share interests and quality time. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422329

MALE, 56, tall, attractive, seeks mature female, 40-70, for mutual spanking. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422429

MALE, 49, brown hair, brown eyes, average looks, 18 and a half stone, good sense of humour, animal lover with loads of love and security to give to the right person. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418783

CARING man, kind, loving, animal lover, seeks female with similar interests. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394149

MALE 40s, 5ft 8ins, average looks, seeking genuine, honest, caring female. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413945

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MALE 44, honest, kind, caring and genuine looking for a long-term relationship. Text only Mailbox: 5422168

DAVID, 58, single, looking for a female partner for friendship and company, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422179

ADVENTUROUS 35yr old, slim, dark hair, likes music, cycling and photography, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417235

WHITE male 58, looking for large build Indian or Black woman for no strings adult fun. Text only Mailbox: 5439562

MIXED Race Male, smart, educated, looking for a lady 35-64 for discreet relationship/friendship. Text only Mailbox: 5462541

DAVE, blue eyes, 5ft 11, looking for love. Only genuine replies. Text only Mailbox: 5457564

COLIN 48, kind loving, seeks cuddly large full figured kind loving lady 50 to 60 for LTR, love, kisses, cuddles, holding hands as well. Text only Mailbox: 5439562

ANDREW 53, widower, honest, genuine, loving, tactile hoping for love again. Text only Mailbox: 5449242

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WIDOWED OAP 82, WLTm lady any age for genuine companionship, togetherness, holidays and more. Can travel or accommodate. Text only Mailbox: 4625673

GUY, 58, 5ft 11ins, looking for slim lady for fun times only meets. Text only Mailbox: 491864

45 YEAR male with varied interests WLTm female, 35 to 55, for friendship and hopefully more. Text only Mailbox: 4215562

MALE early 60s, young outlook on life seeks similar 50s early 60s genuine female, slim with GSOH for friendship maybe more. Text only Mailbox: 5434478

PAUL, 65yrs, Mobility probs but very caring looking for caring lady 60/70 for friendship and possible LTR. Text only Mailbox: 5465394

BUSINESSMAN, 58, adventurous and broadminded seeks a wild companion for fun and new experiences. Text only Mailbox: 4534092

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2

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6

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10

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personal

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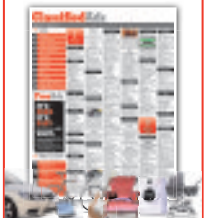
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Saturday Night Theatre from £169⁹⁵

Catch the Theatre Express and enjoy a super two-day weekend break in the capital. There's a selection of London hotels to choose from (supplements may apply) and rail travel is standard class with the option to upgrade. Departs Saturday from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton, returning on Sunday.

The ticket is for the Saturday evening.

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Theatre Showstopper from £239⁹⁵

This popular package to the West End departs from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton on the Friday returning on Sunday. Standard class travel is included with the option to upgrade, plus two nights stay at a four-star London hotel (supplements may apply). Includes a top priced ticket for a Friday evening performance.

Coach inclusive breaks – Two days

Saturday Night from £149⁹⁵

Theatre Weekend with Dinner from £159⁹⁵

Both breaks include a standard priced theatre ticket (option to upgrade) and an overnight stay in an outer London hotel.

For the Theatre Weekend with Dinner option see the matinee performance before heading to the hotel for an evening meal, whereas the Saturday Night option is for the evening performance (meal not included).

Price includes:

- ✓ Return coach travel
- ✓ One or two nights bed and breakfast accommodation
- ✓ Evening meal (with certain packages)
- ✓ Free time in London
- ✓ Services of a tour driver
- ✓ Single rooms subject to availability (supplement applies)

Organised by Omega Holidays (ABTA V4782)

Prices are per person (unless otherwise stated). Please read brochures/web pages for full description plus terms and conditions. Please note Star Reader Travel are unable to take bookings. Dates subject to availability. Coach pick up points offered: Dudley, Shrewsbury, Telford, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

*The "from" price and price bands vary for each show — see brochure/web page for details.

DAYS: 2 OR 3 DEPARTS: VARIOUS DATES



Honda Motability offers

By James Parker

With an excellent range that includes best-sellers like the new Honda Jazz, new Civic hatchback and Tourer estate plus the CR-V SUV, Honda is able to offer Motability considerable choice and variety.

It's also worth noting that two cars in the range – the Civic and CR-V – are both currently built here in Britain!

Last year, What Car? Magazine's journalists voted Honda as the most reliable car brand for the ninth year in a row.

All this information combines to make Honda a 'go to' brand for many Motability customers, especially as this esteemed manufacturer is able to offer a number of enticing deals.

Let's take a look at those Honda Motability offers currently available at your Honda dealer.

New Honda Jazz

We start with the talented Jazz where selected models in the excellent new Honda Jazz supermini range are now available with NIL Motability Advanced Payment, including the Jazz 1.3 i-VTEC S Automatic and even better equipped Jazz 1.3 i-VTEC SE Automatic.

All other Jazz models are also available under the scheme for low Advanced Payments.

Honda Civic

Need more room? All of the Civic five-door range is available to Motability customers, including petrol and diesel versions and the sleek Civic Tourer model.

Outstanding Motability offers across the Civic range include the NIL Advanced Payment on the Civic 1.4 i-VTEC S five-door, Civic 1.4 i-VTEC SE Plus five-door and the Civic 1.4 i-VTEC SE Plus five-door with Sat Nav. The Civic 1.8 i-VTEC S Automatic is also available with a Low Advanced Payment of £99. All these Civics are petrol-powered.

Go diesel and there's the Civic 1.6 i-DTEC



It's also worth noting that two cars in the range – the Civic and CR-V – are both currently built here in Britain

S five-door available for a Motability Advanced Payment of only £99.

What's more, you'll be gaining one of the most advanced, refined and efficient diesels around.

Opt for the stylish Civic Tourer and there's nil advanced payment on the Civic Tourer 1.8 i-VTEC S Automatic while the Civic Tourer 2.0 i-VTEC S 2WD is currently being offered for the low advanced payment of £299.

The Civic Tourer 1.6 i-DTEC S with that

excellent diesel powerplant is also available for an Advanced Payment of £299.

Honda CR-V

And then there's the CR-V, Honda's exceptionally talented SUV for Motability customers to consider, especially as the CR-V 2.0i-VTEC S 2WD is currently being offered for an advanced payment of £299.

The diesel-powered CR-V 1.6 i-DTEC S 2WD is also available for an advanced payment of £699.

Say hello to the Honda range

Say hello to Nil Advance Payment

We're always trying to find new ways to build safer, smarter cars.

And now you can drive one home from Nil Advance Payment with Honda Motability.

The new Jazz 1.3 SE

Small on the outside.
Big on the inside.
With Magic Seats
you can rearrange
180 ways.

**FROM
NIL
Advance
Payment**



**FROM
NIL
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The Civic 5dr 1.4 SE Plus

Sleeker. Sportier.
Smarter all round.
With Magic Seats and
City Brake Active System.

**FROM
NIL
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Payment**



The Civic Tourer 1.8 S

Dynamic. Practical.
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With doors that open
up wide to 90 degrees.

**FROM
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The CR-V 2.0 S 2WD

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Fuel consumption figures for the Honda range in mpg (l/100km): Urban Cycle 28.0 – 72.4 (10.1 – 3.9), Extra Urban 43.5 – 83.1 (6.5 – 3.4), Combined 36.7 – 78.5 (7.7 – 3.6). CO2 emissions 179 – 94g/km. Fuel consumption figures sourced from official EU-regulated laboratory test results, are provided for comparison purposes and may not reflect real-life driving experience. Models Shown: Jazz 1.3 i-VTEC SE Manual in White Orchid Pearl, Civic 1.4 i-VTEC SE Plus Manual in Twilight Blue Metallic, Civic Tourer 1.8 i-VTEC S Manual in Twilight Blue Metallic and CR-V 2.0 i-VTEC S Manual 2WD in Twilight Blue Metallic. Terms and Conditions: Nil Advanced Payment offer on Jazz 1.3 i-VTEC SE Manual, Civic 1.4 i-VTEC SE Plus Manual, Civic Tourer 1.8 i-VTEC S Manual and CR-V 2.0 i-VTEC S Manual 2WD. All offers are correct at the time of going to print however Honda (UK) reserves the right to change this offer at any time. Models subject to availability. Written details available on request. The facilities are for the hire of goods. The scheme is available to recipients of the Higher Rate Mobility Component of the Disability Living Allowance or War Pensioners Mobility Supplement. To qualify for this offer you must be in receipt of a minimum of 12 months allowance. Valid for applications between 01 April to 30 June 2016 to Motability Operations Limited (Registered Company No. 1373876), City Gate House, 22 Southwark Bridge Road, London SE1 9HB. Promoter is Honda Motor Europe Limited trading as Honda (UK) at Cain Road, Bracknell, Berkshire RG12 1HL.

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Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km). Highest: VAUXHALL Insignia 5 Door Sport Tourer 2.8i 325PS VXR Supersport NAV 24v V6 Turbo 4x4 with 18", 19" & 20" wheels, M6: Urban: 17.7 (16.0), Extra-urban: 35.8 (7.9), Combined: 25.9 (10.9). CO₂ emissions: 255g/km. Lowest: VAUXHALL Corsa 3 Door Hatchback 1.3 CDTi 95PS SRi VX-Line Stop/Start ecoFLEX with 15", 16" and 17" wheels, M5: Urban: 76.3 (3.7), Extra-urban: 94.2 (3.0), Combined: 85.6 (3.3). CO₂ emissions: 87g/km. *Official EU-regulated test data are provided for comparison purposes and actual performance will depend on driving style, road conditions and other non-technical factors. *Finance provided by GMAC UK plc, PO Box 6666, Cardiff CF15 7YT. Finance applicants must be 18 or over. Option 1 - Pay final payment & keep the car. Option 2 - Return the car. Option 3 - Trade in against a new vehicle. *Insurance offer subject to eligibility, terms and conditions. First year insurance offer available on Corsa Limited Edition only, excluding Red and Black Editions. All drivers must have held a valid full UK licence for a minimum of 1 year. All policies are underwritten by Ageas Insurance Ltd. Other insurance specific T&S apply. Drivers aged 18-20 will make a contribution of £99 to their premium and must agree to the fitting of a telematics box to the car. Every 3 months, your contribution will be reviewed and if you drive well, we will return part of this to you. The policy may be cancelled for excessive speeding or consistently poor driving. Only available through ingenie. The offer will cover the full premium for drivers aged between 21-75 (motor policy only). Only available through Vauxhall Insurance. Offers available on orders or registrations between 1 April and 30 June 2016. All offers subject to availability terms and conditions. Pictures for illustration purposes only.

Vauxhall returns for reunion

A 1923 Vauxhall 23/60 made its first long journey after an 18-month mechanical restoration to be reunited with three generations of the previous owner's family at Vauxhall Motors' Heritage Centre in Luton.

Known as Alice, the vintage Vauxhall is now thought to be the most original of the around 90 surviving 23/60s from a total production of 1,300 made at the famous Kimpton Road factory between 1922 and 1926.

Kay Lorenzato, whose late husband owned the car from the 1950s, was delighted to see it for the first time after its inaugural, post-resto drive from Leicestershire to the last Vauxhall Bedford Owners' Association meeting. Her husband, she said, would

have been "proud to see Alice on the road again" after he'd shared so many experiences with the car during the 1950s and 60s.

And Raymond Lorenzato certainly used the car extensively. A Grimsel Pass sticker on the windscreen and three tickets from a cinema in Lucerne found under the seat during restoration were evidence of just some of the European road trips he made in the 50s. The car also competed in various VSSC events, before being pushed into service as the Lorenzatos' daily transport during the 1960s (including the harsh winter of 1962/63).

Alice was last seen in Luton in 1964 at a 30-98 Register meeting and was on the road for a further three years, before being retired to the family garage with a cracked block. Talking to Vauxhall staff at the VBOA meeting, Kay Lorenzato had fond memories of attending rallies in Alice with her husband in the early 60s – including one at Brooklands –



Alice's appearance, which still shows the scars of a 93-year life, has carefully been preserved

and recalled how attached they both were to the car.

Well known restorer and vintage racer, Mark Walker, purchased Alice from Kay at a Bonhams Beaulieu auction and over the last year and a half has undertaken a full mechanical restoration. The block has been repaired and new high-compression pistons fitted, but wherever possible Mark has retained original components, with 'conservation' rather than 'restoration' being his mantra.

And Alice's appearance, which still

shows the scars of a 93-year life, has carefully been preserved, with even the original leather trim being saved during the process.

"In Alice, 60mph at 2,000 rpm is still a comfortable and smooth cruising speed and the car keeps up well with modern traffic," said Walker. "Higher speeds are certainly possible, but with only rear brakes, probably not advisable! I intend to use the car as family transport and would love to recreate the trip over the Grimsel Pass one day"



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Finance example: 2008 Mini One 1.4, Cash Price £4995, Deposit £300, Amount of credit £4695, Fixed interest rate 6.25% Flat rate, 11.8% Apr, 60 monthly Payments of £110.53 (£25.50 per week) Total amount payable £4991.04 (Includes Document fee and Completion fee, Subject to status)

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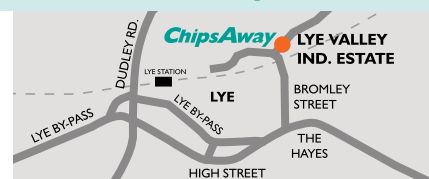
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Peter Rippington Award winners claim their accolades on stage with Amy Rippington, left, and Chris Brunt



Ladies Basketball Most valuable Player was Lauren Saa



Ellie McFarlane was named the under-11s Coach's Player of the Year

Brunt centre stage for Sporting presentation

BAGGIES star Chris Brunt was the star attraction at the annual Sport club Albion presentation evening.

More than 300 eager footballers and basketball players flocked to The Hawthorns for the event.

The Northern Ireland international was on hand to distribute the awards as representatives from the girls' centre of excellence, ladies' football and basketball teams flooded the Richardson Suite for a night of celebration.

Sporting Club Albion is an integral part of The Albion Foundation and provides an opportunity for the local community to wear the Baggies' colours in a range of sports. The club has more than 250 players and 20 teams.

Brunt happily handed out awards and posed for photos with the award winners in each age group.

Individual trophies were given for the players' player, coach's player and parents' player of the year. And as is the tradition in basketball, there was a most valuable player (MVP) award.

Unbeaten

Compered by girls centre of excellence manager Louise Scott, the night featured a multitude of videos and photos highlighting an action-packed season which included the under-16 boys' basketball team remaining unbeaten all season and the Sporting Club Albion Ladies side reaching the County Cup final and progressing to the quarter-finals of the Women's FA Cup where they came up against Women's Super League side Manchester City.

Rob Lake, director of the foundation, said: "It was fantastic to see such an excited crowd at another of our end of season awards nights. The atmosphere was electric."

"We really appreciate Chris taking time out of his

SPORTING FEATURE

By Ben Pollard

"It was fantastic to see such an excited crowd at another of our end of season awards nights."

day to join us. Being on stage for the players to have their photo with him really made the night special for them. There is a great trust and respect between the coaches and I felt that was demonstrated with their speeches. I cannot speak highly enough of the group."

The night also featured the announcement that the Sporting Club Albion set up would revert to West Bromwich Albion as of next season, meaning all teams will play under the Baggies name. The evening ended with the distribution of the Peter Rippington Award.

The accolade is in honour of Peter Rippington, who died in 2012. A long-standing supporter of all levels of football, he was teacher at Alvechurch School, and the father of former Club Albion player Amy. Mr Rippington was renowned for being loyal, selfless, and hard working in every aspect of his life, and the recipient of this award shares such traits.

The award is given to the player who, in the eyes of the ladies' coaching team and senior playing staff, has represented the SCA badge with the same loyalty and dedication that Mr Rippington represented his family, his school and his community.

This year, the award was dedicated to four Sporting Club Albion Ladies players – Kelly Darby, Hazzana

Parnell, Eleanor Clarke and Billie Haynes – who have lost relatives throughout the season. The awards for Sporting Club Albion Ladies were not distributed due to the team still having a number of games remaining as they battle for the league title and the opportunity to be promoted to the Women's Super League.

Awards were: Girls' Centre of Excellence, football Under-11s - Coach's Player of the Year: Ellie McFarlane; Players' Player of the Year: Alannah Meynell; Parents' Player of the Year: Alannah Meynell.

Under-13s - Coach's Player: Anna Craig; Players' Player: Anna Bebb; Parents' Player: Harmonie Cotterell.

Under-15s - Coach's Player: Charlie Whitehouse; Players' Player: Freya Owens; Parents' Player: Katie Clarke.

Under-17s - Coach's Player: Shannon Stamps; Players' Player: Lucy Finch; Parents' Player: Lucy Finch.

Basketball, Under-16 Boys - Coach's Player of the Year: Adam Tiley; Player's Player of the Year: Sulyman Suwareh; Boys Most Valuable Player: Connor Lynch.

Under-18 Girls - Coach's Player: Oliwia Zegel; Players' Player: Lauren Saa; Girls Most Valuable Player: Lauren Saa; Boys - Coach's Player: Taron-deep Nijjar; Players' Player: Jrae Lue; Boys Most Valuable Player: Encosee Richards.

Under-19 Boys - Coach's Player: Matej Dudak; Players' Player: Jamal Brown; Boys Most Valuable Player: Jamal Brown.

Mens - Coach's Player of the Year: Dale Deakin and Dinahs Tobin-Lara; Players' Player: Ramone Joseph; Most Valuable Player: Dailian Mason.

Women's - Coach's Player: Abby Watson; Players' Player: Lauren Saa; Most Valuable Player: Fatosh Tozaki.

Peter Rippington Award: Kelly Darby, Hazzana Parnell, Eleanor Clarke, Billie Haynes.



Sporting Albion's girls' under-15s girls line up on stage ahead of their presentations



Freya Owens presented with the girls' u-15s Players' Player award by Albion winger Chris Brunt



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Brooker is buoyed by youngsters

HAPPY Halesowen skipper Richard Brooker praised his side's youngsters after seeing them edge out Penkridge.

Halesowen went third in the table thanks to a three-wicket win off the final ball. Penkridge hit 229-7 off their 50 overs with Eddie Rhodes taking 3-43 and Tom Wickstead 2-39.

Ed Kilbee continued his consistent run of form with 40 in reply and newcomer Jack Myers hit 71 which set young duo Wickstead and Masharaf Shazad up to help them home.

Said Brooker: "That was a good all round team performance and as the game ebbed and flowed it was good to see us show the bottle to see the game out."

"I was particularly pleased with the application of new-boy Jack Myers and then at the end youngster Tom Wickstead blasted us to victory."

Halesowen's seconds missed out by two runs against Knowle & Dorridge at Station Road. Hales' depleted attack stood strong in the face of some hard-hitting as Andy Roberts (2-40) plus one wicket apiece for Chris Jones, Carl Bust and Richard Cox battled to keep the run rate down.

In reply a steady start gathered momentum with Mohammad Shauib (64) and Richard Cox (51) together. With 15 needed off the final over Williams hit the first ball for six - but then couldn't see the side over the line.

The 3rd XI finished with a losing draw against Himley, but the fourths bowled out Himley for 125 with 14-year-old left arm seamer Alex Jordan taking 5-20. Talha Iqbal strolled to 42 on the way to an easy victory.

This weekend, the first team travels to Oswestry (midday), the seconds face Walmley at home (12.30), the thirds are also at home to Old Edwardians (1pm) and the fourths are at Himbleton (1pm).

Glassboys stalwart Broadhurst claims hat-trick of awards

STOURBRIDGE stalwart Leon Broadhurst picked up a hat-trick of awards at the Glassboys' end of season presentation evening.

The 32-year old midfielder, who joined Stourbridge in 2003, chalked up his 600th appearance for the club in February. He received the Manager's Player of the Year from boss Gary Hackett, the Supporters' Man of the Match award (in memory of Steve Hickman) and the coveted Players' Player of the Year.

The Board of Directors Player of the Year, presented in memory of Alan Pitt, was awarded to club captain Stuart Pierpoint, while Brian Smikle was named the Supporters' Player of the Year and the top goalscorer trophy was presented to Karl Hawley.

Stourbridge's first pre-season friendly will be at Leamington on Saturday, July 9 at 3pm. The following weekend they make the short trip to Stourport Swifts before taking on Kidderminster Harriers in the first round of the Worcestershire Senior Cup on July 18, at 7.45pm.

Goalkeeper Charlie Price has moved to Alvechurch.

Recognition at presentation night



Under-12s winners, from left, Jack Foden, Ozzy Holden, James, Larkin and Dylan Gough

OLD Hales Rugby Club's mini-section gathered to recognise those that performed well during 2015/16 as well as those that helped them along the way.

Because of growing numbers, the event was held over two nights at the clubhouse.

Trophy winners were: Under-7s; Most Improved Player - Benny Wood; Players' Player - Alexander Fisher; Coaches' Player - Henry Gough. Under-8s; Player of the year - Ollie Jones; Parents' Player - Libby Bryant; Players' Player - Bailey Bucknall; Most Improved - Megan White. Under-9s; Player of the Season

- Ben Masters; Player of the Year - Ryley Clark-walls; Most Improved - Molly Howard; Parents' Player - Oscar Brinkmann. Under10s; Players' Player - Ollie Strickland; Player of the Season - Tyler Morgan & Conor Doody; Most Improved - Harry Parker Kinnear & Archie Toy. Under-11s; Parents' Player - Ben Curtis; Coaches' Player - Ewan Worrall; Players' Player - Liam Wright; Most Improved - Omar Abdoalmohter; Rookie of the Season - Thomas Little. Under-12s; Most Improved - Dylan Gough & James Larkin; Players' Player - Harry Holden; Player of the Year - Jack Foden

SWIMMERS FLY FLAG FOR CLUB

YOUNG Black Country stars from one of the West Midlands' top swimming clubs are aiming for success in the upcoming British Nationals.

Flying the flag for the Black Country are Rowley Regis' Chloe Finch and Ashley Markhall and Brierley Hill's Brittany Horton.

City of Birmingham Swimming Club elite coach Carl Grosvenor has high hopes of the youngsters' success at Ponds Forge in Sheffield.

"There have just been a good crop of kids at the same age come through," Grosvenor said.

"They're doing well at the moment, we've had lots of international representatives for Great Britain and England. We've had them enter and win medals at the Youth Olympics, the Commonwealth Youth Games, the World Junior Championships and the European Games.

"That's all at junior level," he added. "As a club we went nine years without someone representing us in the seniors but Luke Davies raced in the current European Championships in London."

Profile

Grosvenor has been a member of the club for 10 years and head coach for six. He is joined by Adam Taylor and Chris Littler.

Former Stourbridge Swimming Club member Horton, along with clubmate Finch and other City of Birmingham stars headed to Glasgow for the Rio Olympic qualifiers, a high-profile event that also doubled-up as a European Junior Championships qualifier.

Horton touched home in third place in her women's open 100m backstroke heat. But the 17-year-old came seventh from a field of eight in the final. The King Edward's School student swam a solid heat in the 200m back, finishing first but finished sixth in the final.

In the women's open 400m freestyle heat, ex-Halesowen Swimming Club star Finch missed out on a spot in the final after qualifying third.

But while Markhall, Finch and Horton can look ahead positively to August's ASA National Championships, the latter has found time to fit in a trip across the continent to represent GB in the Mare Nostrum series in Barcelona.



Brierley Hill's Brittany Horton is targeting success Chloe Finch training with the City of Birmingham



Valuable experience in Olympic sized pool

QUALIFYING 11-14-year-old swimmers from Halesowen Swimming Club travelled to Coventry's 50m pool for the West Midlands Championships.

Over two weekends, the eight swimmers competed against the best in the region, and achieved excellent results.

Silver medallists were Robert Jennings in the 14 years 100m

freestyle and Olivia Jay in the 14 years 50m breaststroke. Niamh Larkin claimed bronze in the 11-12 years 50m breaststroke.

Jacob Bailey and Kate Morrice were unlucky not to come home with a medal, finishing fourth in the 11-12 years 50m backstroke and 14 years 50m freestyle respectively. Other fi-

nalists were Amber Robbins in the 14 years 50m breaststroke, Niamh Larkin in the 11-12 years 100m backstroke, Olivia Jay in the 14 years 100m breaststroke and Robert Jennings in the 14 years 50m freestyle, 200m freestyle and 50m butterfly.

They all gained invaluable experience at a regional competition in an Olympic size pool.

Struggling riders given Max backing

SKIPPER Max Clegg is backing Cradley's struggling riders to battle through their confidence crisis.

The Heathens remain unbeaten in their home meetings at Wolverhampton this season but are clearly struggling on their travels.

They were well beaten at Eastbourne on Saturday before Clegg teamed up with Ash Morris to secure a draw at Buxton in the Knockout Cup.

They are clear favourites to progress when the sides meet again in the return leg at Monmore on June 13.

Said Clegg: "We've got some riders struggling, but they are riding for Cradley for a reason and I'm sure they'll come good."

"They have the ability, it's just a case of them getting the self-belief and confidence to start scoring more points."

"We're trying to help them as much as we can and hopefully things will click for everyone and we'll improve even more as a team."

"It's been a decent start to the season for us, especially at home, but I think there is definitely a lot more to come from us."

Meanwhile Cradley legend Simon Cross is heading back to the town to meet his fans next month.

Cross, who piled up more than 5,000 points for the club in the Dudley Wood era, will be on stage at Cradley Heath Liberal Club on Monday June 20.

A bumper turnout is expected to welcome the former England Test star who now lives in France.

He said: "I'm looking forward to meeting the Cradley fans again, Cradley was always my home during my career and it will be nice to be back in the town."

Admission is £6 on the door or £5 for Heathens season ticket holders and trust members.

Harriers visit Grove for pre-season clash

HALESOWEN Town have announced their pre-season fixtures, including one with Kidderminster Harriers.

The Yeltz will start with a trip to boss John Hill's former club, Tipton Town on Saturday, July 9, and will then visit Sporting Khalsa on July 19, AFC Wulfrunians on July 23, and Alvechurch on July 26.

Three matches at The Grove will follow, starting off against John Eustace's Harriers on July 29.

The last two home friendlies will be with Redditch United on August 2, and Gresley on August 6, with the new season getting under way on August 13.

★★★

The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Ketterly, Telford. Thursday, June 2, 2016

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